SUPPLEMENT TO

Buenos Ayres Standard.

THE short autumnal Session of the British Parliament terminated on Saturday, the 7th of December. Such an event has not occurred for ten years. Altogether, it was a very slow affair. The object of the meeting was to vote supplies for the Abyssinian expedition; to have the consent of Parliament for Indian troops to take part in the war, and to pay a certain portion of the expense out of the Indian exchequer. The first vote was for £2,000,000, a debt incurred in the landing of the forces; which was to be granted out of the consolidated fund, to be repaid by an additional penny on the income-tax, for the current year which would produce £1,500,000, the remainder to be made up by surplus revenue at the end of the financial year. The estimated cost of the expedition was £4,000,000, and the residue will be advanced out of the Consolidated Fund, to be re-couped in such manner as the Chancellor of the Exchequer may propose, when he makes his financial statement for 1868. Very little opposition was raised to these proposals, the majority of the members insinuating that the debt was incurred by the nation, and therefore it must necessarily be paid to keep up British honour and prestige. At the same time, there were not a few who termed it unconstitutional on the part of the Government to proceed to war before the consent of Parliament had been obtained. For a short period of this three weeks' Session, the wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mrs. Disraeli, passed through a dangerous crisis, her life was for a time despaired of, and sympathy was expressed for Mr. Disraeli in his domestic affliction, even by Mr. Gladstone and the prominent members of the Opposition, and it was thought this circumstance prevented any bitterness of party oozing out. Mrs. Disraeli, to the surprise of everyone, recovered, and is now out of danger, and daily reaching a state of convalescence. The Minister, however, with all the weight of a nation on his shoulders, retired each night early from the House of Commons to sit beside the sick bed of his wife, and when she recovered he had a violent attack of lumbago and acute rheumatism, which prevented him attending the House for the last week of the Session. His duties, however, of leader were well performed by Lord Stanley, whilst those of Chancellor of the Exchequer were creditably arranged by Mr. Ward Hunt.

SPORTSMEN, or to describe them more correctly turfmen, are public characters. They live in public on the race-course, and in the betting clubs. When they are titled or wealthy their gains are gloated over their losses are guessed at, their intentions speculated on with the most persevering industry by the literary toats of the sporting press. The movements of Royalty are not more closely watched and recorded than those of the owner of a successful or promising race horse. For these reasons there can be no indelicacy in referring to the universal "talk" about the sudden, although not unexpected "pull up" in the racing career of the young marquis. At five-and-twenty, after a minority of twelve years, the accumulated savings of that period are gone a fine Scotch estate has been sacrificed, and what may be the condition of the rest of his lordship's property may be imagined from the fact, that he, whose whole soul has been devoted to the turf since he was a boy at Eton, has offered for sale his whole racing stud, fifty-two lots, including, in the Earl and Lady Elizabeth, a very probable winner of the Derby of 1868. The Marquis is the representative and the last male heir of four of the oldest baronies in the English Peerage. He inherited that of Grey de Ruthyn, A.D. 1324, from his mother, and he also represents the Baronies of Botreaux, 1368, of Hungerford, 1426, of Molines, 1445, and of Hastings, 1451, besides other English and Scotch titles. He succeeded a brother who died young. His father, the second Marquis, who also had a long minority, was a celebrated master of hounds, although, according to Dick Christian, he never jumped a fence until he was one-and-twenty. Fortunately for his happiness and his fortune, he never patronised the turf or permitted the vultures of the ring to patronise him. The first Marquis was a distinguished military commander, best known in political history as Earl of Moira, he became Marquis of Hastings and Governor-General of India. Gentlemen of less illustrious descent are year after year devoured by the Moloch of the "Ring" without notice; but a Marquis of Hastings cannot disappear from so prominent a pursuit without remark. Young turfmen, like all other gamblers, are proverbially lucky in their commencing operations, or think they are, and if they have money or credit never get a chance of hearing an unpleasant truth until they are totally ruined. The practice of plucking turf pigeons is organised to a system, and the professors include the cleverest scoundrels of all ages, and some in high positions. What a sight was that famous sale at Blenheim's, where, amid the frantic cheers of a venal mob, competition for untried yearlings was carried on with idiotic perseverance and pertinacity until one source of woe, if not ruin, to its owner was knocked down at £2,400! The triumph of the young Marquis was celebrated, and said to have been accompanied, by the transfer of the management of his estates to acute betting men and money lenders.

An authority in the betting world informed me that although noblemen and gentlemen could take the odds and evens in the common and absorbing passion, and converse familiarly with "professionals"—the "brokers and jobbers" of the turf—"they could not eat with them, or see them eat." On this idea the lesser subscription rooms were founded and succeeded. Fast tradesmen, retired butchers and publicans with betting taste, find refreshment, and while before or after liquoring up transact the special business of their lives. But the taste for laying or taking the odds is not confined to either the genteel or the monetel classes. Clerks, shopboys, butchers (journeymen), and even shoemakers, as we learn from the unsuccessful evidence for an *alibi* before the Commission at Manchester, also have their pets for the great races.

The cream of the cream meet at the Arlington, better known as the Turf Club, in Arlington street, where too a little whist at a guinea and five guinea points is to be done; but the great grazing ground for the topping professionals is the subscription rooms in London. The pigeons and hawks, and pigeons who would be hawks if they could, meet on terms of the most perfect equality. The qualification for admission is a reputation for paying punctually. That is enough, and that being the case, professionals are taken as the most certain of payers. Dukes and earls, and all the degrees of the peerage and the gentry, with a fair sprinkling of City men and manufacturers, especially from the north, associate and do business with present and ex-publicans, prize-fighters, brothel keepers, and even reformed pickpockets—*reformed* by finding easier, safer, and more profitable robbery. The hope of getting the best of each other makes a sort of happy family of these human rabbits, doves, lapdogs, rats, cats, monkeys, falcons, and owls. Outside the same portals of the subscription rooms, after great events, swarm a multitude, doing outside business amongst themselves, and seeking to pick up crumbs of comfort from the favoured mortals of the inner gate. Hope sustains the silver hell amid many privations; for do not they see towering and commanding amongst the most aristocratic sportsman, the "Leviathan," who a few years ago was a ploughboy and an outsider like themselves! Blasphemy is the current language of the betting man; but outside these subscription rooms, and in fear of the police, they blaspheme, like "sucking doves," very gently.

We who, as a nation, particularly pride ourselves on our piety and morality, on our superiority to the Italian or German races, amongst whom lotteries flourish and great revenues are derived from public tables for *rouge-et-noir* and *roulette*, have rampant and flagrant amongst us the betting-ring *system*, which annually absorbs millions, brings great houses and small, titled and landed gentlemen and *ladies* by dozens, and others of every degree down to potboys, to grief, ruin, and crime!

An army disappears of backers of horses every year—aristocratic officers, a rank and file of commonalty—but the gaps are immediately filled up, the supply is equal to the demand; and the professional turfmen, who accommodate the fancies of "their customers" for different horses, find every year a crop of fools ready to be amused, flattered, excited, and fleeced. The professionals—"Legs" they used to be called in the last century, when they were counted in scores—are now to be numbered by hundreds, living in the best houses, giving the best dinners, driving the best horses, with large balances at their bankers, always ready to accommodate their clients on good security, and for a consideration.

A few years ago a business was done in "betting lists" held chiefly at public-houses, the takers of the odds depositing their stakes in advance, and trusting to the honesty of the owner of the list for payment after each race. Some large fortunes were made in this way. It was with a list that the Carpenter Leviathan, who has since retired with paralysis and £100,000, laid the foundation of his profitable reputation. But betting-shops having been made illegal, the poorer professionals, chiefly cheats, or "Welshers," were driven to the street corners, to Hyde-park—where certain trees became as celebrated as old Rothchild's post in the Exchange—and the waste land in Farringdon-road. The Street Regulation Act, just come into operation, makes all betting in the open air in the metropolis illegal, as an obstruction; and now a new club, on the cheapest scale, has been *organised for the use of the victims* of police persecution. "The London Commission Exchange and Subscription Ground," with an annual subscription of five shillings, is a retreat where the voice of the Bobby, crying "Move on!" can be heard no more. This ground is situated near what is called the "ruins" in Farringdon-road, not far from the Metropolitan Railway Station, and here the rules are at least as good as they are at Tattersall's; and so long as the one is allowed assuredly the other should also remain. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, and whilst the upper ten meet in large subscription rooms there is no reason why the humbler classes should not have their club.

IN Dublin the trial of the notorious General Halpin has been going on. He declined to plead, on the ground that he was an American citizen. It has been alleged that he was the principal military Fenian of the Dublin district, and had charge of the movement in and near the Irish metropolis in March last. When he declined to plead, the Lord Chief Baron explained to him the position in which he was thereby placing himself. His lordship said it was within three or four days of three hundred years since exactly a similar course was taken by a man named Storey, in the Court of Queen's Bench in England, who was arraigned for treason. He said he would not plead, as he was a subject of the King of Spain; that he was in his service, and had been in it for seven years, and repudiated his allegiance to the Crown of England. The Lord Chief Justice of that day warned him, as he, the Lord Chief Baron, now warned the prisoner (Halpin), of the consequences of his refusing to plead. Halpin said, "I am an American, and demand a jury of American citizens." The Chief Baron: "Do you allege that you were born in America? Unless you state that you were or were not born in the country, we must refuse your application." "Then," said Halpin, "I will permit the Attorney-General to pack a jury as he likes." This man, it would appear, came over to England for the purpose of making war against the Crown and the Government, and he probably imagined that by declining to plead he could avoid the responsibility of the act of treason for which he was indicted. The sooner it is distinctly understood that in this matter of violating the laws of England the Courts of Justice have the power to punish all who offend, without regard to their nationality, the better. In the case of this man, however, there is no evidence that he is an American citizen, and it is certain he was born in Ireland, and has not lost his nationality by a sojourn abroad.

THE great event of the week commencing the 18th of November was the assembling of the British Parliament for a short autumnal Session. Such meetings are of rare occurrence, and are only held when matters of great importance have to be discussed, and money voted for extra purposes which have not appeared in the ordinary estimates of financial expenditure. When the great Duke of Wellington died in the September of 1852, the nation desired to give him a public funeral, and pay for it out of the Government Exchequer; then there was an autumnal Session, and members of both Houses of Parliament eulogised the conduct and character of the great hero of the Peninsular war through a long series of years, both in his military and civil capacity. The majority of the Lords and Commons followed the duke's remains to his last resting-place in St. Paul's, and the Commons freely voted the money necessary for the grand funereal arrangements. This year the Abyssinian expedition having become serious in the matter of pecuniary expenditure, and in the chances of failure or success, the Government could do no other than call together the Parliament of England to sanction their proceedings. The Queen's Speech read by Royal Commission on Tuesday, at the opening of the Session, pointed almost entirely to Abyssinia. Her Majesty regrets the necessity of such an expedition, at the same time it became absolutely necessary, for the honour and prestige of England, that King Theodore should be humbled, and that the English prisoners now in captivity should be released. Some of our contemporaries, however, argue that there are many pressing matters before the Government, and since they have commenced business with an autumnal Session, it would be for the good of the country if the Session, with only a fortnight's holiday at Christmas, was continued without interruption, and not, as last year, leave the great affairs of the nation to be settled at the last moment. The *Civil Service Gazette* says: "Besides the Abyssinian question, there are many other entertainments calculated to excite public interest, which afford ample scope for the display of the highest Ministerial abilities, and the most consummate Parliamentary acting. There are the European troubles and complications, the American unsettled accounts, the Irish difficulties, the supplementary Reform Bills, the new schemes of national education to fit the millions for the exercise of the elective franchise, the adjustment of the conflicting claims of capital and labour, and the repairing of the shattered chains of finance and credit. These, with the stock pieces of legal and social reform, constitute a *répertoire* of sufficient variety and attraction for any company of her Majesty's servants, and, if judiciously produced and economised, they will furnish abundant entertainment for an extraordinary Parliamentary season, extending from November to August."

EVENTS recently have been very thick upon us. The Parliaments of many countries have been meeting, and the policies of the nations discussed. In England the Speech of the Sovereign has been well received, and with very little discussion a loyal address in answer thereto has been presented to her Majesty. The conduct of Lord Stanley, who presides over foreign affairs, has been generally applauded, and the vast majority of the House of Commons freely sanction what the Government have done in the affair.

PREVIOUS to the opening of Parliament there were numerous speeches made by members of every shade of politics, some to Conservative working men, and some to Reformers, and one item we notice in all, namely, that the education of the people will be one of the chief topics discussed in the British Legislature in the year 1868. At Romsey, where the voice of Lord Palmerston was frequently so familiar, his lordship's relative and friend, the Right Hon. W. F. Cowper, M.P. for Hertford, speaking on general educational topics, said "he did not consider there could be any abstract impropriety in compulsory education. There was doubtless a good deal of difficulty in the way, and he must admit, that if the compulsory system come into operation it must necessarily lead to the abandonment of distinctive religious teaching; but, at the same time, if the people were well educated, they would think for themselves and act for themselves, and all this would be in the way of progress." It is well known that England at the present moment is about the worst-educated country in the civilised world, and it behoves every one to put their shoulders to the wheel of progress.

AT the opening of the Corps Legislatif in France the Speech of the Emperor was well received, and appears to have given satisfaction both at home and abroad. In this Speech his Imperial Majesty evidently intended to allay the disquiet which has so long prevailed in France and other parts of Europe, in the presence of the most imposing spectacle of conciliation and peace—the Great Paris Exhibition. His Majesty stated that there was no foundation for the wide-spread belief that any modification in the internal system of Germany must become a *source of conflict with France*; on the contrary, "it was necessary" to accept frankly the changes which have taken place on the other side of the Rhine, and to proclaim that, so long as the interests of France and its dynasty were not threatened, they would not interfere in the transformations effected by the wishes of the populations. His Majesty ceases to urge upon the people the Prussian system by which every Frenchman would be converted into a soldier to the great inconvenience of commerce. The senators and deputies were told that the French army were once more sent to Rome to protect the power of the Holy See, and to repulse the invaders of its territory, and calm being now almost entirely re-established in the States of the Pope, they would be able to calculate the proximate time when the French troops would be recalled home. His Majesty also made the very important announcement that industrial and commercial activity had slackened, that the harvest was not good, that an increase in the price of consumable articles was inevitable, but that "free trade could alone secure supplies and lessen prices." This is an extraordinary admission on the part of the ruler of France, and shows to what an extent enlightened principles of commercial legislation have superseded the antiquated notions of protection and prohibition.

ANOTHER very important assembly met recently—we mean the Canadian Government. It will be remembered that during last Session of Parliament an Act was passed which amalgamated all our North American Colonies; instead of a Governor for Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, and Canada, each having a separate Governor and a separate Parliament, all were to be amalgamated under one, to be called the Canadian Confederation, and Lord Monck was appointed to be first Governor. On the assembling of the new Parliament in Canada his lordship thus addressed them:—"To the gentlemen of the Senate and gentlemen of the House of Commons" of the new dominion of Canada. His lordship congratulated the representatives of the confederated colonies on the production of a new nationality which ere long will extend its bounds from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, and told them of the duties which they had to discharge in reducing to practice the system of government which had been called into existence. Among other great works which they would have to carry out he mentioned that of immediately constructing the Intercolonial Railway from Halifax to Quebec. Of this great work he said:—"It will add a practical and physical connection to the legislative bond which now unites the provinces comprising the dominion, and the liberality with which the guarantee for the cost of its construction was given by the Imperial Parliament is a new proof of the hearty interest felt by British people in your prosperity." Unlike any other of the speeches to which we have referred, the Governor-General of Canada could *speak with feelings* of gratification of the existence of plenty, content, and general prosperity in the country. He said:—"I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the abundant harvest with which it has pleased Providence to bless the country, and in the general prosperity of the dominion. Your new nationality enters on its course backed by the moral support, the material aid, and the most ardent good wishes of the mother country. Within your own borders peace and prosperity prevail; and I fervently pray that your aspirations may be directed to such high and patriotic objects that may be inspired with such a spirit of moderation and wisdom as will cause you to render the great work of union which has been achieved a blessing to yourselves and your posterity, and a fresh starting point in the moral, political, and natural advancement of the people of Canada." The great point in this new amalgamation is that Canada will be able to preserve her own independence and separate herself from United States interests. She starts without a national debt, her burdens are light, and she will cease to desire an amalgamation with their friends on the other side of the Niagara, who are now perhaps more heavily taxed than any European nation.

THE execution of the three Fenians at Manchester took place on Saturday morning at eight o'clock. The preparations of the authorities were of so imposing a character that anything like disturbance was placed beyond possibility. Barricades were erected, and the police and military occupied every commanding point. The crowd which assembled was immense; but the scaffold was so enwrapped in a dense fog, which had set in from an early hour, as to be scarcely visible at fifty yards' distance; and the last dread sentence of the law was completed for some minutes before the greater part of the vast concourse was aware of the fact. The unhappy men are described as having entertained hopes of a reprieve up to the last hour. The brief scene on the scaffold seemed to acquire additional horrors from the dense and dark condition of the atmosphere. The prisoners did not exhibit any of the bravado which marked their conduct on receiving sentence. They met their fate with a less degree of firmness than many who have passed out of the world before them by the same dreadful portal; and Larkin is said to have fainted, and was falling at the instant the drop fell. To the surprise of *many people who predicted otherwise, Liverpool, Birmingham, Wolverhampton*, and other places where the Irish element is largely present in the population, there has been the utmost quietude since the execution. At Birmingham, on Sunday, about 5,000 persons went in procession to the cemetery, and their leader, who does not appear to have been a priest, recited the Roman Catholic prayers for the dead. A feeling of solemnity pervaded the mass, and at the close they dispersed quietly. In London a large crowd assembled on Clerkenwell-green on Sunday about noon, and went in procession to Hyde-park, where Mr. Finlen, the hero of the outrage at the Home Office, delivered a funeral oration to one crowd, while a second crowd held a meeting under the presidency of Mr. Weston, one of the Council of the Reform League, and passed resolutions declaring that the execution was a judicial murder, and thanking the Marchioness of Queensberry for her gift to the families of the executed murderers. There was not, however, any disturbance of the public peace

THE TWENTY-TWO MILLION THALERS which were sent to London by the King of Hanover last year arrived back at Hanover on Tuesday night.

THE WALRUS IN THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S GARDENS.

The young walrus which was placed, a fortnight since, in the gardens of the Zoological Society of London, is thriving and lively, under the care of Mr. Bartlett, the very attentive and judicious superintendent, by whom he was purchased and brought from Dundee. This animal, which is a cub half-grown, was captured on Aug. 28, by Captain Richard Wells, of the whaling steamship Arctic, between Cumberland Island and Disco Island, in the middle of Davis's Strait, on the west coast of Greenland. A herd of two or three hundred walruses being found basking on the ice, Captain Wells sent his boats to attack them. One very large female, which was amongst those killed, was fastened to the stern of the boat to be towed to the ship. This cub would not quit the body of its mother, but clung fast to it, until the female was hauled up, *after which he allowed himself also* to be caught with a rope about his neck. When the ship returned to Dundee, after a perilous and unsuccessful whaling voyage, Mr. Bartlett went to that port and bought the walrus for the Zoological Society. He at once brought the animal to London, by one of the regular line of steamers, when the large box, in which it had been confined on board the Arctic, was conveyed into the Regent's-park gardens, and set down close to the iron railing, on the western side-path, behind the seal's pond, and just outside the inclosure round the smaller pond. This inclosed grass-plot, with the small pond or basin in the midst of it, which is filled with brackish water, forms the playground of the walrus by day; and he spends the night in his box, a plank of which has been removed, as well as a piece of the iron railing, to allow him to pass in and out. It is necessary, however, to close the box at night, and to keep watch over his movements in the daytime, or he would soon climb over the railing and escape. "Jemmy" is extremely wilful, and appears playful, scrambling after the men who enter the inclosure, and butting at them, rather testily, with his great hairy muzzle, which has a pair of incipient tusks, scarcely two inches long. The age of this walrus is supposed to be seven or eight months, and he is about 7 feet in length. When full grown, he may attain a length of 16 feet, with 10 feet girth, weighing about 3,000 lbs. His tusks, as shown by the skull and tusks of another which are suspended on a tree in the inclosure, will then be 14 inches, or perhaps 20 inches, in length, curving downwards from the upper jaw, and pointing towards the ground, unlike the tusks of the elephant. Some interesting remarks on the structure and uses both of the tusks and of the long, bristly whiskers, or rather moustaches, of this singular animal, will be found in Mr. Frank Buckland's description of him in the number of *Land and Water* for last week. In the opinion of that observant naturalist, and of Mr. Bartlett, the bristles of the whiskers, which communicate with the brain by large and highly sensitive nerves—each bristle, in fact, being hollow, and filled with nerve-substance—are employed by the walrus to grope in the sea-sand for shrimps and prawns, or soft mollusks, which supply a great part of his natural food. The tusks are probably serviceable in raking up the sand and weeds to assist his search; the whiskers are used as brushes, to draw to his mouth whatever smell articles he likes, and to push away what he dislikes. By these and other observations Mr. Bartlett discovered how to feed the newly-arrived guest. While on board the Arctic the diet of the walrus had been pork fat, which does not seem to have agreed with him, and he could not swallow herrings. He is now supplied every day with two quarts of whelks and four quarts of mussels, divested of their shells and mixed together, which is the best food he could eat. There is every reason to hope that he will enjoy a long and happy life in the Zoological Society's Gardens, and afford great amusement to the visitors for many seasons to come. The only other living specimen which has appeared in the gardens was brought there in 1853, but died two or three days after its arrival.—*Illustrated London News.*

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S BIRTHDAY.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on the 9th of November, completed his 26th year, having been born in 1841. At noon a salvo of guns was fired from the Tower, the Royal Standard was hoisted at the Government offices, and the bells of St. Martin's and other metropolitan churches rang out merry peals.

PRINCE OF WALES'S TRADESMEN

On the evening of the 9th of November the members of the Association of Tradesmen connected with the household of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales dined together at Willis's Rooms, in celebration of the anniversary of the birthday of their Royal patron. *The chair was occupied* by Mr. J. W. Benson, watch and clockmaker to his Royal Highness. There were also present Mr. H. Melton, of 194, Regent-street, his Royal Highness's hatter, hon. secretary to the association; Mr. Nicholay, Mr. Graves, Mr. Jay, Mr. Neale, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Medwin, Mr. Vokens, Mr. Pepler, Mr. Leadbeater, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Asprey, Mr. Aylen, Mr. Johnson, &c.

"The Health of Her Majesty the Queen" having been enthusiastically honoured,

The chairman said the next toast which he had to propose was "The Health of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales" (cheers). That was undoubtedly the toast of the evening, inasmuch as they were on that occasion met to celebrate the 26th anniversary of his Royal Highness's birthday. It was unnecessary for him, in the presence of such a company as he saw assembled in honour of his Royal Highness, to allude to his great and noble descent, traced down through a long line of chivalric and illustrious kings, of whose virtues he was the worthy inheritor (hear, hear). On the one hand he was ready to generously assist in the promotion of those great charities which reflected honour upon the Christian feeling of the English nation, and on the other he never hesitated to mix with the people in the pursuit of those exhilarating and noble field sports, in which all true Englishmen took keen delight (cheers). Such was the Prince of Wales, and it was thus that he had endeared himself to all classes of his countrymen. The day, however, would come when his Royal Highness would be called upon to occupy a much higher position than that which he at present occupied in the State, and whenever that might be they would find him governing the country in such a manner as would at once contribute to the welfare of the nation and to his own personal honour (cheers). That cheer told him how unnecessary it was for him to detain the company by asking them to listen to a long oration adulatory of the royal qualities which distinguished the heir apparent. Indeed, he felt the toast was one to which he was unable to do justice, but he would at once ask them, as worthy tradesmen and loyal subjects, to drink "The Health of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales" (great cheering).

The chairman next gave "The Health of H.R.H. the Princess of Wales." It seemed but as yesterday when the nation joined in one loud jubilant welcome to her Royal Highness, and hailed with enthusiasm her adoption into the Royal Family of the country. Well had they been rewarded, for ever since then her Royal Highness, by her kindness of manner and gentleness of disposition, had endeared herself to the hearts of the whole English nation. So much was this the case, that they all felt as one man pained and grieved at her late affliction, and read with much anxiety the bulletins which were issued in reference to her progress towards recovery, and it was to all Englishmen a *lively source* of gratification to find that she was again restored to health and to the adornment of the high position which she occupied in the nation (cheers). There was one circumstance which was not the least item in the claim which she had on the affectionate loyalty of the English people, and that was that she had given birth to a new race of princes, who were destined to be the kings and queens not only of this but of other nations (hear). Whatever changes might take place in the future, the royal family of England would be still extant, and engage the fulfilment of those duties which devolved upon it, and would ever live in the kind and loyal hearts of the English people (cheers). He should say no more, but call upon them, in the spirit of pure loyalty, to drink "Long life and happiness to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales."

The utmost enthusiasm characterised the reception of the toast.

Several other toasts followed, and owing to the admirable arrangement made by the hon. sec., Mr. H. Melton, the organiser of the association, the company enjoyed a most agreeable evening. The musical arrangements were under the conduct of Mr. Theodore Distin, who was ably supported by Mr. G. Carter, Mr. H. Harrison, Madame Talbot Cherer, and Miss Julia Derby.

Illuminations were general throughout London, and more especially amongst the Royal tradesmen.

THE CRADLEY COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—Two more names have to be added to the list of deaths from the above serious occurrence. These are William Battleton, of the Lye, and Solomon Guest, of Quarry Bank. Battleton died on Tuesday morning, and Guest on Sunday. Mr. Baker, the Government inspector of mines, again visited the colliery at Homer-hill, on Monday, with the view of examining the spot where the accident happened. The doors, which were blown out at the time of the explosion, have now been replaced.

VISIT OF HER MAJESTY TO SEVENOAKS.

ACCIDENT TO THE ROYAL TRAIN.

Her Majesty the Queen, with her Royal Highness Princess Louise, attended by Major-General Seymour, Sir T. M. and the Hon. Lady Biddulph, and the Hon. M. S. West, on Saturday paid a visit to Knole-park, the seat of the Earl and Countess de la Warr, near Sevenoaks. The Queen and Princess, on leaving the palace shortly before 11 o'clock, drove, with the royal attendants, in close carriages, to the Windsor terminus of the Great Western Railway, where a special narrow-gauge train had been prepared for the conveyance of the illustrious party. The new royal saloon, recently constructed for the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company, occupied the centre of the special train. The officials present on the part of the Great Western Railway included Mr. Tyrrell, superintendent of the line; Mr. Spagnoletti, telegraph superintendent; Mr. A. Higgins, divisional superintendent; and Mr. H. Simmons, the station agent; Mr. Ward being in attendance for the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company. The train left the Windsor station at 11.6 a.m., and proceeded on its way over the Great Western narrow gauge *viâ* Slough and West Drayton. Just after passing Ealing station one of the valves of the engine which was drawing the Royal train suddenly broke, and the progress of the train was immediately interrupted Precautions were taken to protect the train from those following it upon the up line of rails, and so soon as it could be effected a telegraphic message was sent on to request that another engine might be forwarded without delay. While waiting for this a coal train fortunately hove in sight. It had been despatched from Southall after the Royal train had passed, and reached Ealing just in time to be of service. The powerful engine was at once taken off the coal train and attached to the special train. Her Majesty's journey was then resumed, the accident having caused a delay of about thirty-five minutes. The remainder of the route over the Great Western line to Long Hedge Junction was safely effected, and the train handed over to the care of the officials of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, under whose charge it was taken to Sevenoaks, in Kent, where her Majesty arrived early in the afternoon. The Queen, on leaving the train, drove to Knole-park, which is situated about three miles from Sevenoaks station. After luncheon, and at the conclusion of the visit, her Majesty drove back to Sevenoaks, and left the station in a special train about five o'clock, returning over the London, Chatham, and Dover and Great Western systems, and arriving at Windsor at 6.35 p.m., the Queen drove at once to the Castle. Her Majesty wore a black jacket, trimmed with ermine, and muff of the same fur, black dress and bonnet. Princess Louise was very tastefully attired.

THE FOOD RIOTS AT BARNSTAPLE.

(From the *Western Morning News.*)

Since the riots at Teignmouth, Exeter, and other places became known at Barnstaple many of the roughs and discontented of the lower order (not a few women) have been labouring under the delusion that the steps taken by the rioters in the neighbouring towns were essential to obtain a reduction in the high price of provisions, and they determined that Barnstaple should not be behind in making a similar demonstration. It was expected that a breach of the peace would take place in the market during the earlier part of the Friday, but big talking and an indulgence in a few threats by some old women were the only noticeable indications of discontent in the market. Between seven and eight o'clock in the evening, however, it became apparent from the unusual number of roughs and boys standing about that a disturbance would be attempted. Shortly after eight, bands of about fifty men and boys, with a sprinkling of women, marched through Green-lane and Derby, beating up tin kettles, and screaming at the top of their voices. Their numbers were largely augmented, and on their return to the butchers' market it was very evident they were bent on mischief. In an incredibly short space of time every butcher's shop was closed, amidst hooting and yelling, and cries of "We want cheap beef and bread," and "Let us have our rights." The police now appeared on the ground, and the mob rushed off through Boutport-street to Joy-street, and whilst passing Mr. Lawday's bread shop several stones were thrown at the first-floor windows. This was the first glass broken. By this time there were at least 500 people assembled, and the police began to divide the mob, when they proceeded through Vicarage-street to the bottom of Derby, the yelling and hooting being fearful. Along the route the shutters flew up to the various shop windows as if by magic. Mr. Connabear, a bread baker and grocer, had only succeeded in getting the shutters up to one of his shop windows when the crowd passed by, and a running discharge of stones was kept up, breaking almost all the glass. Thence the crowd returned to Boutport-street, where their numbers were largely increased, and excitement ran very high. Here a fellow named Loosemore, a coalheaver, appeared to take the lead, and amidst cries of "We'll have our rights" and discordant noises, a rush was made to the town mills, occupied by Mr. Baker, smashing the glass of Mr. Howard, a baker, on the way. Mr. Baker's shop was found closed, and ineffectual attempts were made to pull down the shutters, but ample amends were made by destroying nearly all the glass in the sitting-room and bed-room windows. One of the stones went through the sitting-room window, and destroyed a handsome pier-glass opposite. After again rushing through High-street, Joy-street, and through the other part of Boutport, and breaking in the shop-window of Mr. Robins, eating-house keeper, the mob proceeded to the bakehouse of Mr. Rowe. Here great efforts were made by some to wrench off the shutters, while others destroyed some very large panes of glass in the upper stories. In the midst of this destruction Mr. Rowe came out and collared one of the roughs, but was immediately overpowered, and received several blows from the clubs and fists of those around. The mob again marched to Mr. Baker's, and made a halt. At this time there must have been from at least 2,000 to 3,000 present. Up to this time the police had not interfered further than to protect themselves and other persons from personal violence, but at this stage it became very clear that unless some energetic steps were taken the riot would assume more serious dimensions. Messengers were dispatched to the Mayor, who, with a number of magistrates and others were assembled at the Guildhall, informing him of what was doing, and in the meantime the police, under the direction of Sergeant Longhurst, and with the assistance of several tradesmen and others, determined to capture the chief ringleader, who was inciting the mob to take vengeance on the bakers, who had grown rich, as he said, "through cheating them of their due." The little force of police and volunteers made a gallant rush and seized their man, but although they used their staffs and did all that men could do, the odds against them were too great. Amidst the most horrid yells and unearthly cheers the mob closed on them; stones, sticks, bludgeons, and fists being used. Two of the policemen received very severe blows in the head from stones, and another a severe kick in the leg, and finally the mob released the leader. Fortunately the fellow did not enjoy the treatment he had received, and fearing a similar tussle he went away. This had the desired effect of causing a division in the mob. About 400 or 500 of the most determined proceeded to Plaistow Mills, belonging to Mr. Davey, corn merchant and miller, about two miles from Barnstaple. The rest of the mob left without a leader, was easily disposed of. The authorities now determined at once to check the outbreak, and 200 tradesmen and others were sworn in as special constables, and being armed with constable's staffs, proceeded after the rioters to Plaistow, but arrived too late. The rioters, on getting out, were received at the entrance gate with a pistol shot from the window, quickly followed by another; but, finding that no one was hurt, they rushed up to the front whilst the third shot was being fired, and then commenced the most wanton destruction. The mob having filled their pockets with stones from an adjoining quarry, and cut clubs from the hedges along the route, only a few minutes were occupied in demolishing the windows, the frames also being pulled out and broken up, and the doors knocked in. They then threatened to fire a large rick of wood closely adjoining the house. Mr. Davey's son, seeing resistance was useless, brought out all the bread, cheese, and cider in the house, and some money. Although this had a subduing effect, the ruffians repeatedly demanded to see Mr. Davey, sen., declaring that he bought up all the corn in the markets, thereby causing the high price. However, the mob, after eating and drinking all they could get, left without committing further mischief, intending to pay a similar visit to Mr. Hernaman's house and mills at Bradford. In this, however, they were disappointed, as they had not proceeded far when they met the specials, led by the mayor, Captain Williams, and several other officers of the 6th Devon Rifles, two deep, well armed with staffs and clubs, and with the proclamation to be read if necessary. The mob were somewhat awed. No collision, however, took place, and the only further malicious act perpetrated was the indiscriminate smashing of the windows in Pilton, and those of Mr. Rice, currier, and Mr. Petter, maltster, on Pilton-bridge.

On arriving at the end of the bridge the rioters found themselves completely hemmed in, another body of specials having been stationed there. Mr. R. Farleigh, mayor (who was mounted), addressed the crowd. His worship was attentively listened to except by a man who was harmed with a hatchet, and who endeavoured to seize the mayor's horse. His worship begged them to retire to their homes, and said they could do him no greater honour on this the last day of his mayoralty than to obey him. Some of the more determined went in the direction of the market, and again began a disturbance, but the police made a capture of three of the ringleaders, and, with the assistance of the specials, successfully resisted all attempts to release them. The mayor again begged the crowd to disperse, and finally they did so about two o'clock. The man Loosemore was taken on Saturday morning, and, with four others, brought before a full bench of magistrates. Four of them were remanded—Loosemore, Lewar, Scott, and Westacott, and one, a boy of 12 years, was discharged on payment of 11s. 6d. damage and costs.

BARNSTAPLE, SUNDAY.—The whole of yesterday was occupied by the authorities in preparing for a renewal of the riot. A strong body of specials was sworn in, including the members of the Barnstaple Rifle Corps (6th D.R.V.). As evening came on the town was in an excited state, and groups of loungers were standing at most of the corners or strolling about. The crowd at times was considerable near the Guildhall, and in the vegetable market, where the "specials" were formed into parties, and drafted off to parade the town. Several ineffectual attempts were made to get up a scrimmage, and the specials had to put up with much insolence. One man named Vicary overstepped the mark, and was at once collared, and resolutely, amid a storm of yells and groans, marched off to the lock-up. This capture appeared to have a deterrent effect. The specials altogether numbered nearly 500, and were marshalled in bodies of from 20 to 50. Two troops also of the North Devon Mounted Hussars having been hurriedly called together, were drawn up at the top of Sticklepath-hill, under the command of Sir A. Chichester, about half a mile from Barnstaple, ready to ride into the town at once when summoned. Towards nine o'clock affairs began to look much more serious. The streets in places were very crowded, and the noise increased. Rumours were very common as to the actual whereabouts of the rioters, and it was feared that the threat of attacking a cargo of potatoes lying alongside the quay, was being carried out, but this, with other stories during the night, proved to be incorrect. The mob was largely composed of boys and women. By one o'clock this morning the streets were nearly deserted, the force at hand for the maintenance of law and order evidently having had the desired effect of "cowing" the riotously disposed. It was astonishing how large a proportion of persons who would claim to be called respectable sympathised with the means taken by the roughs to procure cheap bread. The difficulty in dealing rigidly with the rioters arose from the large number of people looking on, whose presence lent confidence to the rioters and shielded them when pursued.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

In again applying to you for your advice and assistance, I regret that I have found it necessary to call for your attendance at an unusual and, probably, to many of you, an inconvenient one.

The Sovereign of Abyssinia, in violation of all international law, continues to hold in captivity several of my subjects, some of whom have been especially accredited to him by myself, and his persistent disregard of friendly representations has left me no alternative but that of making a peremptory demand for the liberation of my subjects, and supporting it by an adequate force.

I have accordingly directed an expedition to be sent, for that purpose alone; and I confidently rely upon the support and co-operation of my Parliament in my endeavour at once to relieve their countrymen from an unjust imprisonment, and to vindicate the honour of my Crown.

I have directed that papers on the subject shall be forthwith laid before you.

I receive from all foreign Powers assurances of their friendly feelings, and I see no reason to apprehend the disturbance of the general peace of Europe.

A band of Italian volunteers, without authority from their own sovereign, having invaded the Papal territory, and threatened Rome itself, the Emperor of the French felt himself called upon to despatch an expedition for the protection of the Sovereign Pontiff and his dominions; that object having been accomplished, and the defeat and dispersion of the volunteer force having relieved the Papal territory from the danger of external invasion, I trust that his Imperial Majesty will find himself enabled, by an early withdrawal of his troops, to remove any possible ground of misunderstanding between his Majesty's Government and that of the King of Italy.

The treasonable conspiracy, commonly known as Fenianism, baffled and repressed in Ireland, has assumed in England the form of organised violence and assassination. These outrages require to be rigorously put down; and I rely for their effectual suppression upon the firm administration of the law, and the loyalty of the great mass of my subjects.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

EXECUTION OF FENIAN PRISONERS AT MANCHESTER.

OUTSIDE THE GAOL.

Men who have experienced the ghastly wretchedness of sitting up all night, to see an execution in the cold mist of a November dawn, will hardly need more than a few general terms to remind them of miseries which they would doubtless prefer to forget. But to the fortunate plurality of persons whom neither exceptional duty nor morbid inclination has ever induced to take part in such horrors, a brief description may not be without some little wholesome value. It is to be assumed that, with a purpose of avoiding the disagreeable and dangerous difficulty of struggling through a crowd composed in the very great part of depraved and infamous humanity, your plan has been to engage betimes a point of view, and to take personal possession of it, before any great concourse of ruffianism has assembled and met together. The chances would be that the house affording the best accommodation, as well as the nearest sight of the great moral show, is a tavern. It is yet more likely that, tavern or no tavern, there is not a spare bed in the place; so you resign yourself to such company as you may find collected there, to take part in your vigil. A disposition to "argufy" is noticeable in a large proportion of the persons present. A is of opinion that the extreme penalty in this case ought not to be enforced, though one might fairly suspect, by his manner, that the gusto with which he looks forward to the sight on the scaffold across the way is rather enhanced than diminished by the reflection that mercy could as well have been granted. B differs emphatically from all that A says, and expresses a conviction that, if ever capital punishment was deserved, it is deserved in this instance. C very wisely, though at a length compared with which leading articles may be accounted epigrams, traces a distinction between legal and moral guilt. D boldly confesses a reluctance to see a line so often drawn, as it now is, between the two things, and declares that he is never so well satisfied as when the law is permitted to take its course. E, who appears to have read, at some time or other, Wordsworth's sonnet on the singularly poetical theme of capital punishment, says he does not withhold pity, in the present case, but thinks that, on the ground of a necessary expiation, it is right to enforce the penalty of death; whereupon, being pressed by F on several points of a long and not very intelligible argument, E gets lost in a metaphysical fog. The other letters of the alphabet restlessly shift about the room, or make parties at cards, or alternately doze and brighten up again to the talkative point; all except Z, who, having bemused himself with brandy-and-water, sleeps an ugly and stertorous sleep on a most ingeniously uncomfortable little horsehair couch in a corner. The air of the room is poisonously close, "right little peace one hath of it, God wot;" the condensed breath of the company streams down on the clouded windows; and, while the heat between the level of the table and the ceiling is hardly to be borne, your legs are bathed in a current of cold air which keeps the feet and knees, at all events, perfectly cool. Meanwhile the crowd is gathering without, and the roar rises like a rising tide, and now and again some new din startles A, B, and the rest, drawing them to the window to see "what's up now."

So wears the night with the watcher who is intent on seeing how men are hanged; and so wore the night of Friday last, till it grew sadly into day. A mist, thickening into a fog, hung over the scene, disputing possession with the light of dawn. The mob reeked and steamed, puffs of vapour ascending out of the struggling phalanx just as the last excitement came, and the cry of "Hats off" arose. There were mingled sounds of hooting and cheering as the black door behind the gibbet was opened against the grey sky; but the dominant noise was an indistinguishable roar, and that subsided almost into silence in the two minutes which elapsed before the drop was heard to fall, and the white caps went down behind a screen of black drapery. It was a minute or two past eight o'clock when the procession mounted from the courtyard of the gaol to the scaffold. A little earlier a company of the 72nd Highlanders had taken up their position on the walls; and almost simultaneously a line of soldiers' heads appeared above the parapet of the railway bridge. Then the solemn tones of a priest, reading the Litany of the Roman Catholic Church, were heard by those near to the scaffold. The convict Allen, supported by the Rev. Canon Cantwell, appeared first on that terrible scene. The youth was pale, as though he were already past the bitterness of death; but his voice was firm when he uttered the response "Lord have mercy upon us." On coming in view of the crowd, Allen shook with a visible tremor; and it was Gould, who, taking his place on the left hand of the younger man, showed most courage. He shook with his pinioned hand the pinioned hand of Allen, and twice kissed his cheek. The caps drawn over the faces of the men were so thin that, when expanded, the white material scarcely veiled the features, or hid their expression. Little imagination was needed to detect, in Gould's glance towards the third convict, Larkin, as he was placed at the extreme left of the group, an appeal to his companion to summon fortitude. For Larkin, who had struggled to smile in ascending the stairs, now gave way entirely. Before the hangman could get the noose over his head, he fainted. An assistant of Calcraft's, a powerful fellow, named Armstrong, supported the wretched culprit at this extremity. In another minute the drop went rattling down, and the dull shock was heard by distant listeners. The fall was an unusually long one, but, for all that, it was not effectual in securing instant death. Allen, indeed, ceased in less than a minute to struggle or move; but the convulsions of Gould and Larkin lasted more than twice the time. The crowd dispersed without the smallest demonstration of feeling, and the only sign of disturbance was an accidental cause of alarm on the Manchester side of the Irwell, where a series of rushes upon the rear, by the spectators who had occupied the front of the position, threatened mischief but caused none. Scarcely a third of the number present remained on the spot, or returned thither, to see the little that could be seen of the cutting down of the bodies.

INSIDE THE GAOL.

The interior of the vast prison-house of Salford, though containing within its boundaries some 2,000 individuals, was as silent as the grave. A large space at the north front, bounded on one side by the dark and sluggish waters of the Irwell, and enclosed at both ends with high and strong boarding, was entirely unoccupied, save by a dozen policemen, three standing at each of the gates. It had been generally asserted and believed that a force of infantry and several pieces of artillery would be stationed here ready for any emergency. Great, therefore, was the surprise when no appearances of military display were presented. The few constables were obviously ill at ease, and anxiously desirous of relief from their particularly trying duty. The real strength of the force lay concealed within several parts of the building, while in various large rooms throughout the city and at the barracks strong detachments of cavalry and infantry were securely posted. Gloomy as the aspect of a great gaol ordinarily is, it may be doubted whether there are many in the kingdom which for oppressive effect can equal the New Bailey at Salford. Enclosed by a high brick wall, the actual prison-houses are low and poor; appearing somewhat like the jumbling of a number of poor cottages around a central tower of no particular pretensions. A narrow yard, damp and chilling, extends the whole circle between the wall and the prison, intersected at intervals by iron railing and small gateways. Seen as it was at seven o'clock on this dull November morning, overshadowed by a thick mist, the usual forbidding aspect of the huge low pile was rendered particularly repulsive. In the yard just described were gained the first glimpses of the military power employed. A detachment of the 72nd Highlanders, wearing their grey overcoats and forage caps, were ranged in double file near the entrance. Steady and immobile as mutes, yet ready for immediate and deadly service, those soldiers stood in the murky dawn of the morning, representatives on a small scale of that extra power which the Government had deemed it necessary to employ. There were not more than a hundred men in all placed in the gaol-yard, but their presence even in those numbers, and the manner in which they were posted, gave to the work in hand a character belonging more to the dark days of actual rebellion than to peaceable times. Passing through a gateway to the right, the reporters, of whom there were about twenty present, were conducted to the actual place of execution. New staging, rudely and massively fixed, supported three platforms on a level about four feet below the summit of the wall. A breach of that depth had been made at the centre platform, and there it was that the scaffold stood projecting into the street beyond, and quite out of sight of those in the gaol-yard below. Platforms on each side were occupied by about a dozen of the 72nd Highlanders, who, crouching below the top of the wall, waited with rifles ready for use on any emergency. The platforms were reached by open stairs of wood of considerable width, and protected by side-rails. At the bend in the wall facing Salford bridge, a smaller platform, ten feet lower than the wall, was filled with soldiers, who, if need arose, could fire through portholes made for the purpose. At the opposite end a strong guard of police stood on duty. A double file of troops were held in reserve at the foot of the scaffold stairs. The officers of the gaol, the visiting justices, sheriffs, and sheriffs' officers moved uneasily and anxiously about. One person more than others among those in the gaol-yard attracted attention: Calcraft, the hangman, looked troubled and anxious. He is an elderly man of middle height, moderately stout, of slightly stooping carriage, with some tendency towards shambling in his gait. He wears a suit of black, inclining towards seediness. A skullcap of the same colour sets off rather than conceals his long white locks and grey whiskers. His countenance, not a very expressive one, was pale and anxious, and there was a nervous twitching of the hands which betrayed a spirit much perturbed. Calcraft had received a threatening letter, and being really a man who is as fully conscious of the repugnant nature of his work as of the necessity for it, he had thought it right to appeal to the visiting justices to take care to provide for his getting safe home; where, report says, Mr. Calcraft is a peaceful and contented citizen.

THE LAST MOMENTS OF THE CULPRITS.

No knell was tolled for the convicts about to leave this world, as is the rather questionable practice in several gaols. The stillness of the prison contrasted strongly with the roar of the vast and impatient crowd surging beyond the walls, who for aught that could be seen of them might at those very moments be commencing an attack. Just before eight o'clock a sharp report rang through the heavy air, and was shortly followed by another of the same kind. Naturally enough, the soldiers on the staging started at the sounds; but the reports were nothing more than fog signals on the neighbouring line of the Lancashire and Yorkshire railway. The clock had struck eight, and fully two minutes more had elapsed before the procession of the doomed men emerged from the cells. There would be about 20 persons in all, not in regular order, but rather in three groups, closely following each other. Most conspicuous of the cortége were Canon Cantwell and two Catholic priests in attendance on the prisoners, who fervently intoned the prayers of their church for the spiritual consolation of the doomed men in this their last extremity. Officials, warders, sheriffs, officers, and two or three ill-dressed persons out of uniform, who were probably hangman's assistants, composed the guard of the three convicts on their way to the scaffold. The distance from the door at which they came out to the foot of the stairs was not more than a dozen yards, and the pace was so exceedingly hurried, and the surrounding of each man was so complete, that it was difficult, in the momentary space occupied by the march to the drop, to recognise the individual prisoners. Allen, sadly changed from the fresh and vigorous youth he was at the trial, walked first. He was pallid, thin, haggard, and evidently careworn. His face had lost the roundness and fairness of its better days, and was that of a boy become suddenly old. Nevertheless, though his arms were tightly pinioned, he walked erect with firm and rapid step and fearless mien. His light, brown curls, wafted back from a handsome forehead, gave to him an air of freedom that markedly contrasted with his actual position, but which did not appeal to the pity of spectators. Larkins was a very different case. He it is said has, more than either of the other men, listened to and derived consolation from the spiritual administration of the reverend fathers who have diligently attended his cell. Hence he, though at the trial less defiant than the other two, appeared now as he walked to meet his doom more composed and resigned than Allen did. This may have been a mistaken impression on the part of the present writer, as it appears that when on the drop Larkin almost swooned before the bolt was drawn. Gould is said to have been the most firm of the three, but as I failed to distinguish him amongst so many persons, I am unable to write from actual observation. The reporters admitted to the gaol had no more than a glimpse of the prisoners as they were hurried along, and fortunately for them were not permitted to see the actual hanging. As the criminals reached the drop, the prayers of the priests, "the Litany of Jesus," were fervently uttered, and with these words in their ears, and that name on their lips, the three men condemned for the murder of Sergeant Brett expiated their crime.

There was evidently a severe struggle by one of the convicts, said to be Larkin, before life became extinct. When all was over, Calcraft, flushed and flurried, came hastily away from the scaffold, and, accompanied by a huge assistant, named Armstrong, made his way into the interior of the gaol. The reverend gentlemen officiating were Canon Cantwell, who wore the purple vestments pertaining to his clerical rank, the Rev. Father Gadd, and the Rev. Father Quick. They remained at the drop in fervent and deep-toned prayer long after the convicts had ceased to live.

It has transpired that each of the men intended to make a speech, either on the way to or at the scaffold, but so thoroughly at the last had their thoughts become turned away from this world, that not one word other than of a religious character escaped their lips in the few minutes that preceded execution. From the passing of sentence down to the very last day before it was carried into effect, they seemed to have been more or less buoyed up with hopes of reprieve. So strong was this belief in the mind of Allen that it is thought he did not fully credit the fact until he was actually pinioned. Even then, before he went up the stairs, and while the devotional prayers of the priests were in his ears, he looked wildly round as if expecting that at that moment a rescue would be attempted from the railway, or it may be in the hope that a respite would even then arrive. That the hope of assistance from the direction of the railway line may have been thought of is not unlikely, seeing that special precautions were taken in that quarter to meet any attempt that might be made to rescue the convicts. Allen was not of a religious bent, and did not so readily as Larkin accept the consolations of his faith until his last hours arrived. Gould's animal courage carried him through. At five o'clock in the morning they were visited by the priests, by whom the sacrament was administered to them, and with whom they remained in communion up to their last moments. After hanging an hour the bodies were taken down, and taken into the gaol. There, as the custom at Salford is, the clothes were taken off to be given to the relatives of the deceased. The bodies, in prison shirts, were put into coffins, and buried in the part of the gaol where the man Burrows, who was hanged here, was interred. Soon after nine o'clock the crowd dispersed as quietly as from an ordinary execution. The barriers were taken down in the course of the day, and the scaffold removed, but until late in the evening curious people wandered about the place.

AFTER THE EXECUTION.

A calm reaction followed the stormy feeling which prevailed prior to the execution. The law of the country as it stands had been vindicated under very trying circumstances, and it may be asserted that, even amongst those who were opposed to the carrying out of the sentence, the execution was regarded more in sorrow than in anger. Pity was expressed for Larkin because he was a poor, easy-minded, and naturally harmless person, who had undoubtedly been drawn into participation in the crime for which he suffered through the representations of stronger-headed men, such as Gould. Allen, too, was a young enthusiast, who until death on the scaffold really stared him in the face could never have seriously contemplated or have had forcibly pointed out to him the true character and consequences of the outrage in which he no doubt readily joined. As for Gould there is nothing to show that he was not one of those semi-American adventurers who since the termination of civil war in that country have been seeking to spread sedition in this. He alone of the three who are dead was old enough—using the word old in a slangy rather than literal sense—and cool enough to know exactly what he was about, and to have exactly calculated upon the probable consequences of his actions. Unlike Allen, who showed some kind of daring, if even that term can be applied to an attack by fifty men, several of them armed with deadly weapons, upon a dozen all but defenceless constables, Gould seems at any rate to have tried to take care of himself, just as Kelly and Deasy have done, after leading on better natures to their destruction.

All Saturday night the principal mills and factories were guarded by bands of workmen, as there prevailed a not unreasonable apprehension that incendiaries might be at work. The city of Manchester and the borough of Salford were, however, quieter than usual, and not the slightest disturbance was reported to the police. The management of the execution, so far as the officers of the gaol were concerned, was not altogether perfect. The fact that the convicts were kept two minutes behind the time fixed, though of no real consequence, is probably unprecedented in the records of hangings, where the strictest punctuality is almost invariably observed.

PRAYING FOR THEIR SOULS.

At morning service in St. John's Catholic Cathedral on Sunday there was a very much larger congregation than usual. The Rev. Father Gadd, one of the priests who attended the convicts, officiates at this church, and it was expected that he would allude to the occasion. The rev. gentleman had, however, been obliged to leave Manchester early in the morning to attend to duty in the country, and was not present at the cathedral, so that no reference to the all-absorbing event was made. The congregation consisted largely of Irish people of the poor, though not the poorest classes. As far as a spectator could judge, their feelings were those of sorrow rather than of anger, and from the appearance of the eyes of many, there had been much weeping amongst them. Mourning cards on the death of the convicts were sold near the church early in the forenoon, and were largely bought up. These cards were edged with black, surmounted with a cross, and in style similar to those used at humble funerals, and it read thus:—

"Of your charity, pray for the soul of William O'Meara Allen, aged 19 years, William Gould, aged 30 years, Michael Larkin, aged 30 years, the three unfortunate men who were executed at the New Bailey, Salford, on Saturday, November 23, 1867. Their profound love of 'poor old Ireland' and the Fenian cause induced them to attack the police van in Hyde-road, Manchester, on the 18th of September, and release Colonel Kelly and Captain Deasey from custody. They were tried by Special Commission, and sentenced to death, on Friday, November 1. 'Have pity on them, have pity on them, at least you their friends, for the hand of the Lord hath touched them.'

'All their sorrows now are ended,
All their sufferings now are o'er.'

"May they rest in peace. Amen. 'God bless poor old Ireland.'"

A considerable number of people wandered about Now Bailey-street on Sunday, actuated by a curiosity to see the place of execution. A small hoarding and a door behind, but seen above the wall where the drop stood, were all the substantial evidences that remained of what had been.

It is said that each of the convicts left statements with the priests who attended them, but which cannot at present be obtained for publication. Larkin declared that he had neither pistol nor stone, and did not participate in the attack. Gould said he was not there. Allen said he did not fire a pistol in the van, but picked one up after some one else had fired it. He said there was no intention to take life. Brett, he said, was looking through the keyhole when the shot was fired at the lock. The statements left by the men were very short, and contained nothing more than what was said at the trial.

DEMONSTRATION AND INDIGNATION MEETINGS IN LONDON.

At eleven o'clock on Sunday a meeting was held on Clerkenwell-green for the purpose of forming a funeral procession to Hyde-park in honour of Allen, Larkin, and Gould; Mr. Waite presided.

Mr. Finlen stated that the Irish working men were at that hour for the most part in their chapels, where they were praying for Allen and his two comrades; they, therefore, could not take part in the funeral procession if it took place in the forenoon. He put it to the meeting whether those present would proceed at once with the demonstration, or wait until three o'clock in the afternoon, when the Irish working men could take part in it.

The meeting, by show of hands, decided in favour of proceeding with the demonstration without delay.

Mr. O'Callahan, an individual who stated to those around the chairman that he had prepared a hearse and four horses to head the procession, but that he had on Saturday evening received a telegram from some friends of liberty in Dublin, telling him not to have any demonstration if possible, addressed the meeting, and said that the Roman Catholic clergymen who had attended Allen and the others had communicated the wish of the families that no procession should take place. As Catholics, they would look upon it as a desecration to have a demonstration over the bodies of men who had died in peace with God (cries of "You are out of order!"). He begged that there might be no procession, but that they would get up a subscription for the families of the sufferers instead (cries of "Both, both!").

Mr. Campbell said that the working men of England, Scotland, and Ireland would be knit together by the events which were taking place. The prayers of the poor were as acceptable to God as those of the rich; but the prayers of the poor for mercy in the case of Allen and the other two men were disregarded by the aristocracy (groans). He denied that the Catholic Church had any intention of condemning the expression of sympathy for those who died as they lived moral men (cheers). Were there a hundred men in that meeting who believed they were murderers? ("No, no.")

Mr. Henessey said that the hanging at Manchester proved that the oligarchy had no other way of dealing with the Irish people than that old one of the gallows and the rope (hear, hear). That meeting was a proof that the English people had no sympathy with the brutality of their rulers, and that they desired to terminate a system that had wrought so much misery for 700 years (cheers).

The chairman then called upon the meeting to form into a procession. He asked all present to act as special constables to keep the peace (hear, hear).

At half-past twelve o'clock a procession was formed. A black banner, bearing the inscription—

"Man's inhumanity to man
Makes countless thousands mourn,"

was carried at what was intended to be the head of the procession, but so many moved on in advance of it that it was really in the middle. A band of fifers and drummers played the "Dead March" in *Saul*. Many of the men wore black crape on the left arm. Some few wore green rosettes. The men were for the most part of the same class as those that formed the bulk of the Reform processions of last year. The *cortège* moved slowly and was quite orderly. It was expected that the route of Oxford-street would have been taken, and some thousands of persons were in waiting there to take part in the demonstration, but at the last moment the committee directed that the line of Fleet-street and the Strand should be taken.

FUNERAL ORATION.

At a quarter to two o'clock the procession reached Hyde-park, and the committee having taken up a position beneath an elm tree, Mr. Waite called upon those present to take off their hats, and not to express either approval or disapproval while Mr. Finlen delivered the "funeral oration." The meeting uncovered accordingly.

Mr. Finlen then said that the three Irishmen who were executed on Saturday sacrificed their lives through the belief that they were serving a glorious and just cause. They were not criminals; they were heroes, and they were followed to their graves by all who had hearts to feel and intellects to appreciate what was noble and beautiful in life. They were buried in the prison, and therefore they had no funeral; but the working men of London had formed a funeral procession to mark their sense of the act which had deprived them of life. Their blood, wantonly and unnecessarily shed, would cement the English, the Irish, and the Scotch people into an invincible band which would free these islands for ever from class despotism and class slavery. The memory of Allen, Gould, and Larkin would in future times be regarded as that of past deliverers were looked upon at the present day. He did not forget that Policeman Brett had been also snatched from his family. He and they all sympathised with Brett's family, and they did so sincerely as humanitarians for the same reason as they sympathised with the children, the wives, and the mothers of the men who were so needlessly executed. By their sympathy they showed that they were not as callous as the aristocracy (groans, which were repressed by those around the chairman). He hoped that they would go on walking in constitutional paths to vindicate their rights as freemen, so that the welfare of all the people should become the basis of the nation's prosperity. He thanked those present for their orderly conduct, and called upon them to disperse quietly.

An artisan said that the Catholics of London desired that as no public high mass had been said for the slain men, the "De Profundis" should be sung. He then gave out the Psalm "Out of the depths I cry unto thee, O Lord," but it was not taken up, owing, no doubt, to the fact that the Catholic element would not understand the Psalm unless recited in Latin.

The meeting broke up with three cheers, which the chairman vainly attempted to repress.

During the time that Mr. Finlen was pronouncing his "funeral oration," a meeting assembled at a short distance in the direction of the Marble Arch, at which resolutions condemning the execution of the Fenians as a cruel and murderous act were put, and carried unanimously. There was also a third meeting of a similar character, but the crowd separated without a disturbance of any kind.

THE MARCHIONESS OF QUEENSBERRY AND THE FENIANS.

The sum sent by the Marchioness of Queensberry is £100, and not £300, as first stated. On Saturday morning the Rev. Father Gadd, Roman Catholic clergyman in attendance upon the condemned Fenians, read to them the following letter. With the letter was a cheque for £100, to be distributed as directed by the writer:—

"My dear friends,—With these few lines I enclose what may give some consolation to you in your approaching departure from this world. I send you by the hands of a faithful messenger some help to your wife, or wives, or children, on their approaching irreparable loss, and give you my assurance that as long as I live they will be cared for as much as is in my power. Mr. M'Donnel, the bearer of this for me, will bring me their addresses, and the address of the priest who attends you. It will be a comfort for your precious souls to know that we remember you here at the altar of God, and you will remember that in the all glorious sacrifice at Calvary you were included. We have daily mass for you here, and if it please the good God to call you to Himself on Saturday morning, remember that the precious body and blood of the Saviour will be presented for you before God who pleases to call you on that day—that blood so precious, which cleanses from all sin. May your last words and thoughts be of Jesus. Rest on Him who is faithful and willing to save you; and rest on him who was sacrificed on the cross for you; and bear him say, 'To-day you will be with me in Paradise.' Yet will we remember your souls constantly at the altar of God after your departure, as well as while you are living. Farewell. May the Saviour of sinners save you, and grant his blessing upon you on earth, and his salvation in heaven.

"CAROLINE,
"Dowager Marchioness of Queensberry."

The prisoners expressed their thankfulness to the marchioness for her great kindness.

DEATH OF MARSHAL O'DONNELL.

Marshal O'Donnell is dead. The history of his life since 1835 or 1836, says the *Morning Star*, is almost the history of Spain. He has been concerned in more than one of the changes of Government. In 1840, after the Carlist war was over, he declared himself on the side of the Queen Mother, and went into exile with her in France. Espartero took up the Government, and in 1841 yielded to O'Donnell's request for permission to return to Spain. That permission was Espartero's ruin. O'Donnell got up an insurrection, and Espartero was driven from power. Since then O'Donnell has been Governor-General of Cuba for some time, and has filled various Ministerial offices at home. In 1859 he commanded the Spanish expedition against Morocco, and for his services there was made Duke of Tetuan. In 1863 he resigned office, and has been since then under a cloud. He was a man of great ability, much firmness, and unrelenting in his treatment of his opponents. He is reported to have said that there were various ways of getting and retaining office, but that the best was to shoot all your opponents. There is no doubt he acted upon a principle very much akin to this. After his successes against Espartero, he shot numbers of the defeated party without mercy. It has been well said, contrasting Espartero and O'Donnell, that the former was perfectly honest but had no ability, while the latter was full of ability but had no honesty.

THE FRENCH VIEW OF THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

The *Etendard*, a French paper, of the 21st of November, says:—

"The only paragraph in Queen Victoria's Speech which seriously interests us is that alluding to the affairs of Italy. That paragraph expresses the hope that the Emperor of the French will, by a prompt withdrawal of his troops, do away with all possible subjects of misunderstanding between his Government and that of the King of Italy. There is something in this paragraph. The wish should have been accompanied by something indicating a feeling of justice. Since her Britannic Majesty expresses a hope that the policy of France will not ruffle that of Italy, we are astonished that she does not also express the desire that Italy will render to French policy the guarantees which are due to it. To take the literal meaning of the Speech from the Throne, the interest of Italy would seem to be preferred to that of France. How far will that preference go? Not far, no doubt; not further than the pleasure essentially English and Tory, of flattering revolutionary passions abroad, and of encouraging foreign Garibaldis, at the same time hanging her own when she has any. The severity of the speech in what concerns the Fenians plainly justifies this contrast, which we confine ourselves merely to pointing out. We, moreover, believe that it is without example, that a country, absolutely neutral in foreign questions, should take upon itself to indicate or suggest a resolution to a foreign Power, unless she entertains the design of interfering in her turn. Forsooth, we are by no no means apprehensive of what English Ministers may do. They would allow themselves to be chopped into mincemeat rather than risk their precious tranquillity in any conflict. Those who allowed the dismemberment of the crown of the Princess of Wales's father, and the conquest of Hanover, the cradle of the present dynasty of Great Britain, will not venture on the Roman question; they will, if necessary, disavow those of their agents who make themselves despositaries of Orsini bombs, as they formerly disavowed those of their colleagues who were Mazzini's backers. But we are really astounded that the Tory Ministry, resolved to shut themselves up in a policy of wise non-intervention, did not extend that policy to words, and resist the pleasure of putting in the mouth of the good and virtuous Queen Victoria a phrase equivocal for France. The Ministers of her Britannic Majesty, however, have hastened to take up a more correct position by protesting yesterday in both Houses their friendship for France and their gratitude to the Emperor Napoleon. The phrase in question, therefore, is only a phrase, and not an act; but in politics, all that is not useful does harm. This is a maxim the importance of which seems to have escaped both the maturity of Lord Derby and the youth of Lord Stanley (*sic*)."

THE COURT.

THE Queen still remains at Windsor. Her Majesty is in excellent health, and takes daily walks and drives in the vicinity of the Castle.

THE Right Hon. H. T. Lowry Corry arrived at the Castle on Monday, and had the honour of dining with the Queen and the Royal family. The Dean of Windsor and the Hon. Mrs. Wellesley, and the Rev. Charles Vaughan, D.D., and Mrs. Vaughan, had also the honour of receiving invitations.

THE Queen, their Royal Highnesses Princess Louise, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, and the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, attended Divine service on Sunday morning in the Private Chapel. The Rev. Charles James Vaughan, D D., Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, preached the sermon.

ON Thursday afternoon their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess Teck left town by the four o'clock afternoon train from Paddington, on a visit to the Queen and Royal Family at Windsor Castle. The Prince and Princess arrived at the Windsor Station of the Great Western line at 5.5 p.m., in a saloon carriage, which had been attached to the ordinary train. The Queen's carriages were in waiting, and their Royal Highnesses drove at once to the Castle Mr. H. Simmons, the station agent, was in attendance at the terminus.

THE Princess Louise and Princess Teck happened to be walking in the Castle yard, on Friday, where they were met by the mob following the Fenian deputation, and were so frightened that they ran into Sir Thomas Biddulph's house close at hand, where they remained until the crowd returned from the Castle.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, attended by Major G. H. Grey, returned to Sandringham-house on Saturday evening from visiting the Duc d'Aumale at Woodnorton. His Royal Highness came by way of Cambridge, special, and arrived at Wolferton shortly after six o'clock. The Prince of Wales, attended by Sir William Knollys, Major Grey, Mr. Fisher, and Mr. Holman, proceeded on Sunday morning to Divine service in the church of St. Mary Magdalen, Sandringham-park. The service was conducted and the sermon preached by the Rev. W. Lake Onslow, the rector, from Isaiah. chap. xlii, verse 3. The chants were *Venite*, E. G. Monk; *Te Deum*, Dr. W. Crotch and Dr. W. Hayes; *Jubilate*, W. Lee; Responses, Dr. Nares.

THE Count and Countess of Flanders and retinue arrived at Sandringham on Monday afternoon, on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Count and countess travelled in the Prince of Wales's Royal saloon, which was attached to the eleven o'clock ordinary train from London, arriving at Wolferton at 3.24. The Prince of Wales drove down to Wolferton station to meet his august visitors, and accompanied them to Sandringham in an open barouche, arriving there shortly before four o'clock.

THE Hon. Mrs. E. Coke has succeeded Viscountess Walden in attendance on the Princess of Wales, who takes daily drives in the neighbourhood.

THE Duke of Cambridge, attended by Colonel the Hon. J. Macdonald, arrived at Frogmore on Saturday, on a visit to Prince and Princess Christian.

PRINCESS LOUISE, attended by Lady Caroline Barrington, dined with the Prince and Princess Christian. The dinner party also included Lieut.-General the Hon. Charles and Mrs. Grey. Sir Thomas and the Hon. Lady Biddulph, Lady Susan Melville, Sir John Cowell, Lieut.-Colonel George Gordon, and Mr. Gardner Engleheart. Their Royal Highnesses afterwards had an evening party, at which Prince Arthur and Prince Leopold were present. The ladies and gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood had the honour of receiving invitations.

PRINCE AND PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, Princess Henriette, and the Duke of Cambridge, with their suite, attended Divine service on Sunday morning in the Chapel, Windsor-park.

CONSERVATIVE BANQUET AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

The *Daily News* says:—A Conservative banquet was held in the Concert-hall at the Crystal Palace, on Monday evening. The tickets announced that the entertainment was promoted by the London and Westminster Working Men's Constitutional Association, but of the 1,500 or 1,800 who sat down, probably not 50 were working men proper. The company was composed of gentlemen having the appearance of clerks and well-to-do tradesmen, and many of them mere lads. Over the orchestra was the inscription "The Altar, the Throne, and the Cottage;" and beneath there was hung a portrait of Lord Derby, as he appeared twenty or thirty years ago.

Amongst those present were—Mr. R. N. Fowler, in the chair; Lord J. Manners, M.P., Mr. Mowbray, M.P., Mr. Garth, M.P., Sir C. Russell, M.P., Colonel Hogg, M.P., Mr. Cubitt, M.P., Colonel Knox, M.P., Colonel Richardson Gardner (late candidate for Windsor). Mr. Lloyd (the defeated candidate at the last Birmingham election), and Mr. Smith (the unsuccessful candidate at Westminster). There were also deputations from Guildford, Greenwich, Chatham, Rochester, Stowe, Portsmouth, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, King's Lynn, Preston, Croydon, Waterford, Bolton, Falmouth, Tynemouth, Bristol, Crewe, Stafford, Northampton, Bradford, South Ossett, Hertford, and Leeds.

Towards the close of the dinner, which was abundantly and well served, some of the company waxed exceedingly noisy. Just before the speaking commenced a gentleman with a red rosette stood upon his seat and commenced a speech; this was the signal for loud hooting and shouts of "Sit down," during which a young man rushed threateningly towards him, armed with an enormous cudgel, but fortunately the person menaced had "collapsed" before any offensive measures could be taken. The toastmaster had twice to beseech the company to sit down and remove their hats before the first toast could be given.

The chairman gave "The Queen," amidst considerable noise, which continued more or less during the evening.

LETTERS FROM THE MINISTERS.

Letters, which must have been unheard by the majority of the company, were also read as follows:—

The Chancellor of the Exchequer wrote:—"I regret that I cannot dine with the London and Westminster working men to-day. I should have been honoured and gratified by being their guest, but it is impossible. I approve of the purpose of their association, of which you are chairman, and of the means by which they are effecting it. None are so interested in maintaining the institutions of the country as the working classes. The rich and the powerful will not find much difficulty under any circumstances in maintaining their rights, but the privileges of the people can only be defended and secured by national institutions. There is also another reason why I am glad to see among the working classes an organisation in favour of the laws and constitution of the country. There are some symptoms of a lawless spirit among us at this moment, which the light-headed may be inclined to admire as the proofs of the spirit of freedom. Nothing can be more fallacious. Their tendency is hostile to freedom, and their consequences must be detrimental to our common rights. In old days it was our pride that the constable's staff had more authority in this realm than the sabres and the muskets of the police of the Continent. It will be bad for us all if that constitutional conviction ceases to influence this country. It was a homage to law, which is the foundation of freedom. He who wars against order wars against liberty."

Lord Stanley regretted that a call to Windsor prevented his attendance.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

The toast of "The Prince and Princess of Wales," was the next given, and then that of "The Church." "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers" was proposed from the body of the room by a Mr. Elliott, but not a sentence could be heard except in his immediate vicinity. A few hisses, however, were mingled with the applause of his nearest hearers. The luckless speaker was at length stopped by loud cries of "Time," "Be short," and "Chair." The performance of "Rule Britannia," which followed, was, however, received with evident favour.

Colonel Hogg, M.P., responded for the Army. He believed the present meeting, which was one of working men, would do much towards strengthening the hands of the Ministry.

Admiral Elliott responded for the Navy, and stated that he hoped to see a Seamen's Conservative Association established, with a centre on Tower-hill.

Captain Hughes responded for the Volunteers.

THE TOAST OF THE EVENING.

The chairman next rose, and gave the toast—"The Conservative Working Men of the United Kingdom." He reviewed at great length the history of reform during the last two years, and congratulated the Conservative party that during the recent conflict it had been characterised by loyalty to its leaders. The speech, which lasted nearly an hour, was but imperfectly heard, owing to the noise in all parts of the room.

Mr. Hamilton, who said he was a common labourer, and had never been to school except on Sundays, responded; previous to which there was another boisterous interval consequent upon a determined but unsuccessful attempt to get him upon the platform. Although roughly handled he, however, at first refused, and after five minutes' hauling on the part of friends, he was brought to the front. The poor fellow could not, however, make himself understood, partly in consequence of his weak voice and confused sentences, and partly in consequence of the uproar in the meeting. After a trial of fifteen minutes the meeting proceeded to cry him down. As he declined to stop, an official with a blue riband approached to assist in enforcing the wishes of the meeting. This failing, a second official joined the other, and between them they fairly hustled the old man along the front of the platform amidst the uproarious gibes and laughter of the audience and the strains of the band, which was ordered to strike up.

Mr. Pitman, who said he was a working man physically and mentally, and who turned out to be the gentleman who mounted his seat to speak at the commencement of the proceedings, responded to the toast. During the course of his remarks he asked what the Liberals had done for the working men. "Why," he answered, "they gave us free trade, and what is the price of a loaf now? Let us stick to those who always gave us cheap bread and cheap beef, and money to pay for it" (loud cheers). The speaker continued until told to sit down.

LORD J. MANNERS, FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Brooks, from the East-end, proposed "Her Majesty's Ministers."

Lord John Manners replied. He said it was most difficult for him to express the pleasure which her Majesty's Ministers would, as a body, feel at the manner in which the toast had been honoured. His colleagues, though absent in body, were present in spirit. Last year he had the honour of presiding over a magnificent assembly of working men in the Agricultural-hall, to celebrate the close of one of the most interesting and successful of exhibitions promoted by working men. He recollected that the Radical press, in the comments which appeared the next day in reference to the occasion, said it was all very well for Tory gentlemen to go amongst vast assemblages of working men, and express the admiration and confidence they felt in them, but the thing was to look and see whether they expressed the same confidence by their acts. Whatever might be said by a hostile press to-day, he thought it would not be said that the Tory Government, by their acts, had shown any want of confidence in the working people of this country (cheers). This was indeed a significant meeting—significant in its magnitude—in the composition of its varied elements—in the place in which it was held—and in the object it had in view. This was the place in which the Reform banquet of Mr. Potter was held, and in which the Reform banquet of Mr. Beales was not held—(hootings and laughter)—and he presumed the company thought that alike for the sentiments which were and were not expressed on those two occasions, this great temple, dedicated to the innocent recreation of the working classes, required purification. The untruth had been demonstrated of the assertion that there was not to be found such a thing as a Conservative working man. Let Manchester, Edinburgh, York, Birmingham, Bristol, and every large town in the kingdom, and let also this magnificent assemblage, respond to that ridiculous assertion. It was asked how it could be that working men could be Conservative? That had been answered in some of the speeches made during the evening. Of all classes in this kingdom it was the working classes which required the blessings afforded by the constitution. Was it not the working classes who required more than any other security for life and property, peace and order at home, immunity from foreign aggression, safety for their widespread commerce and the products of their industry? And it was under the old institutions of the country that the working man could best enjoy those blessings. If then their interests were protected in every clime, if their religion was ever at hand to console them in their sorrows, cheer them in their hours of adversity, hallow their joys, consecrate their relations on every occasion of their domestic life, and guard the sacred remains of their loved and dear ones, how could it be a matter of surprise and wonder that the working man of England should prefer those time-hallowed institutions which had been handed down, rather than the proposals of that body who had brought to their expiring counsels some juvenile Italian revolutionist, or the eloquence of some Irish champion of some expiring Celtic tribe (loud laughter). If it were true that the Conservative working man did exist and that they had good reason to support the institutions of their country, the question remained, had they right and reason on their side in celebrating, as they now did, the passing of the Conservative Reform Act (cheers)? Here they were met by two distinct classes of objectors. Some maintained that as Conservatives they had no right to rejoice in the passing of a measure which, in reality, was nothing more than a base act of sur

EPITOME OF NEWS.

MR. SPURGEON has received another £1,000 for his orphanage from an anonymous friend.

LORD BROUGHAM has arrived at the Hotel Mirabeau, Paris, from England on his way to Cannes. His lordship is in good health.

THE NEW DEAN OF EXETER.—The Rev. Archibald Boyd, M.A., was installed into the deanery of Exeter on Saturday.

GARIBALDI'S SONS.—The two sons of Garibaldi, Menotti and Ricciotti, have received permission hitherto refused, to see their father in his prison at Varignano.

IT IS STATED that when the Marquis of Bute attains his majority next year, he will come into possession of two millions in ready money, and a rent-roll of nearly one hundred and fifty thousand a year.

MR. R. EKYN, M.P. FOR WINDSOR, met with an accident at a recent meet of the 2nd Life Guards Drag Hunt, and fractured his collar-bone. On the same occasion there were two or three other accidents.

A LADY BACHELOR.—A young lady of 16 has just successfully passed her examination at the Faculty of Lyons, and received the degree of Bachelor of Letters She particularly distinguished herself by her classical attainments.

HERRINGS.—A most extraordinary take of herrings was effected in Gareloch and other arms of the Clyde on Saturday. "Glasgow magistrates" could be bought in Greenock on Saturday night at 13 for a penny.

DESTRUCTION OF FARM STOCK.—Twenty-four stacks of oats, barley, wheat, and hay took fire on Tuesday morning at Offerton Hall Farm, Sunderland. The estimated damage is £200. The origin of the fire was unknown, but is supposed to have been the result of incendiarism.

DURING THE RECENT equinoctial gales in the Mediterranean many of the mules intended for the Abyssinian expedition died on board ship. The Italian mail steamer left Brindisi with 114. Before reaching Alexandria 57 died and were thrown overboard. Another steamer lost upwards of 100 in the same manner.

THE OAKS COLLIERY.—It would almost appear as if the engineers in charge of the Oaks colliery are unable to devise any successful means for entering the workings and recovering the remains of the men entombed in them. Since the explosions of the 5th inst. all attempts in that direction have nearly ceased.

MILDNESS OF THE SEASON.—Jeremiah Burrows, carpenter, living in a cottage near the Mouse Holefarm, Badingham, Suffolk, gathered on Monday, the 25th inst., a bunch of raspberries, including three very ripe and perfect ones, two nearly ripe, others unripe with perfect blossom, and another nearly full blown, with leaves as green and fresh looking as are seen in July.

CARRIAGE ACCIDENT.—Sir John Marjoribanks and the Hon. Harry Grey were driving to Lees House from Floors Castle, and while near Birgham, the conveyance, owing to the foggy night, was overturned. Sir John had his arms dislocated and otherwise got himself severely bruised, and the Hon. Harry Grey's head was cut. We are glad to hear, however, that both are doing well.

A CENTENARIAN BISHOP.—Mgr. Benaglia, Bishop of Lodi, Italy, has just entered his 100th year. His mental faculties are still of surprising lucidity; he reads without glasses, and himself manages most of the affairs of his diocese without his memory or judgment being ever at fault. He also performs the most fatiguing duties of his episcopacy. He has been a bishop for 30 years.

FEMALE MEDICAL SOCIETY.—It has been decided to extend the course of study at the Ladies' Medical College, in Fitzroy-square, by the addition of a course of lectures on chemistry, embracing a description of the non-metallic elements and their principal compounds, with special reference to subjects bearing upon the study of medicine. The lectures will be experimentally illustrated, and will commence on December 2. Mr. John A. R. Newlands, F.C.S., has been elected as the lecturer.

THE DESIGN OF A MEDAL which Pius IX. is about to distribute to the troops who defended him at Mentana, is now published. The decoration will be in the form of a cross, bearing on each of its limbs the words Pius Papa IX., 1867, and having in the centre the Papal tiara and cross-keys, encircling which appears the motto: "Fidei et virtuti." On the reverse, and also in the centre, the Cross of St. Peter, head downwards, with the words: "Resurget fulgentior." The ribbon will be blue.

A FORTUNATE SHIP.—A schooner named William and James is at present in West Hartlepool Harbour undergoing repairs. The vessel is upwards of a century old, having been built at Ipswich in 1763, and is supposed to be the oldest collier afloat. Mr. Snellwood, of West Hartlepool, who has recently purchased her, found some papers amongst her timbers dated 1770. The most remarkable feature in the history of the ship is, that she has never been ashore, and never lost a life at sea.

SINGULAR CHARGE OF FRAUD.—At the Greenwich Police-court, on Saturday, Mr. E. V. Arbuckle, late adjutant of the Woolwich Arsenal Artillery Volunteers was committed for trial on a charge of obtaining money by means of false cheques. The prisoner had paid several small bills with cheques for £5, drawn upon Messrs. Cox and Co., of Craig's-court, in the name of his brother, an officer in the Indian army, and had received the differences in cash.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN HANOVER.—The Methodists of Aurich in Hanover having received from the Landrost, or prefect, a prohibition to celebrate their Divine service, applied to the Government-Council of the province of Hanover. In consequence of the intervention of the President, Count de Stolberg-Wernigerode, and in execution of Art. 12 of the Prussian Constitution, guaranteeing the liberty of worship, the prohibition has been withdrawn.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A GLUTTON.—On Saturday an inquest was held in the Marylebone-road on the body of James Lee, 36 years of age, who fell down and died in the street, after an enormous meal. Mr. W. Cathron, F.R.C.S., deposed to making the post-mortem examination, and said that the stomach contained 1lb. 8½oz. of solvis, each piece of beef or mutton weighing half an ounce. The intestines were full of undigested food. The cause of death was spasm of the heart from an over distended stomach. A verdict to that effect was returned.

SUFFOCATION BY GAS.—An inquest was held on Tuesday evening at Bury, touching the death of Richard Howarth, aged 26, residing at 74, King-street. On Sunday afternoon, in consequence of deceased and his mother, who lived together in the same house, not being seen, and as repeated knocks at the door produced no response, forcible entrance was at last gained, when deceased was discovered dead, and his mother nearly dead, suffocated by an escape of gas from the pipe which supplied the house. A verdict of "Accidentally Suffocated" was returned.

EXPLOSION AT DUBLIN.—An explosion of gas took place on Thursday, at nine o'clock, in the Clerk of the Peace's office, situate in a part of the Court-house, in Green-street, Dublin, occupied by jurors and Crown witnesses. The gas, it appears, had accumulated during the night, and when a woman went to light the fire it exploded. The roof was shattered, windows blown out, and furniture smashed in an adjoining room where jurors had slept. They were then at breakfast, and no one was injured. The occurrence was purely accidental.

A DEAF-MUTE GRADUATE. — An unprecedented fact has just occurred at the Sorbonne. A deaf and dumb young man, M. Duruxeau, has lately passed his examination as Bachelor of Sciences answered with great talent, in writing, all the questions put to him. This success, unhoped for a few years since, does infinite honour to the Paris Institute of the Sourds-et-Muets.

SALE OF BREAD AT PARIS.—An ordinance of the Prefect of Police of Paris directs that bakers within the police jurisdiction must sell their bread by weight, and must weigh it in presence of the purchaser, even without being requested to do so. Bread delivered at the customers' houses must be weighed if the buyers demand to have it verified, for which purpose the baker must furnish his delivery-men with scales and weights.

RE-OPENING OF NEW PALACE-YARD, WESTMINSTER.—On Tuesday morning, New Palace-yard, having been enclosed by an ornamental gilt railing, was opened for carriages, &c. Instead of cabs being allowed to occupy the space almost indiscriminately as formerly, they will be confined to a double rank opposite the entrance to Westminster-hall, at the extreme end of the enclosure parallel with Bridge-street. By this arrangement the ingress and egress of members' carriages will be unimpeded and much risk of danger obviated. As usual on the morning of the opening of Parliament, the Yeomen of the Guard proceeded to examine the vaults underneath the Parliament Houses.

FUNERAL OF MR. EDWARD JAMES, Q.C., M.P.—On Saturday the remains of Mr. Edward James, Q.C., M.P., were interred in the cemetery at Highgate. The funeral *cortège* was formed at 24, Upper Wimpole-street, the residence of the deceased, the mourners consisting simply of relations of the learned gentleman. The carriages of some of the judges and a few personal and professional friends followed.

REVENGE OF A DISAPPOINTED SUITOR.—At Lons-le-Saulnier, France, a man named Frost, who worked as tinsmith with a master, M. Fevelat, courted the latter's daughter. He asked her in marriage, and was refused. A few days back he repeated his request, and on being again denied shot his employer with a revolver. M. Fevelat's life is despaired of.

FIRE AT CLAPHAM.—On Thursday morning a fire was discovered raging in the shop of Mr. Brook, grocer, in Clapham New Town. Before its discovery the fire made great way, and on the arrival of the engines it was found impossible to get the flames under until the whole of the stock and furniture had been destroyed and the house completely burnt out. The loss will fall upon the Globe Insurance Company.

HOW TO REDUCE THE PRICE OF MEAT.—On Saturday several sheep were slaughtered for the special use of the *employés* of the carriage shed works of the Bristol and Exeter Railway, at Bridgewater, and the Bridgewater Iron Foundry, who bought the joints at from 5½d. to 6d. per lb. The result of this combination among 500 men was seriously felt by the butchers of the town, who, on Sunday, sent off a whole truck full of meat to London.

STRANGE CONTEST.—A James Sullivan, of Providence, has challenged John Cassidy, of Hartford, to climb 100 poles for 100 dols. a side against time, and the challenge has been accepted. The poles are to be erected 40 to the mile, and each man is to climb far enough to touch the top of each, descend, run to the next, and so on till the operation is finished. One must do the whole before the other begins, and the one performing the task in the shortest time wins.

PROPOSED REDUCTION OF WAGES IN THE IRON TRADE.—On Saturday the ironmasters in the north of England gave notice to their men of another reduction in wages. For a considerable time past the manufactured iron trade has been in a very depressed state, and, in fact, since the unfortunate dispute about wages last year, when thousands of men on the Tyne and the Tees were thrown out of employment for 18 weeks, another reduction has frequently been talked of.

THE EASTERN FISHERIES. — Very large quantities of herrings have been caught off the eastern coast during the last few days. In the course of the week ending on Saturday it was calculated that 2,500 lasts were landed at Great Yarmouth, or, altogether, the enormous number of 33,000,000 fish. The quality of the fish landed has been pretty good; the general price realised has been from £6 to £10 per last. The catches made by the Lowestoft boats have also been very large; thus on one day 500 lasts were landed at the port.

ANOTHER MUSEUM has been added to the numerous public establishments in Paris. It is called the Museum of the Archives of France, and occupies six rooms in the Hôtel de Soubise, in the Rue de Paradis, not far from the Place de la Bastille. Among the curiosities are a great number of rare charters, illuminated manuscripts of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and various historical documents written on papyrus. The hotel is also well worth visiting on account of its architecture, which is extremely interesting.

A REMARKABLE CIRCUMSTANCE.—THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF INDIA.—A crowded call meeting took place before Mr. Church, at the Rolls Chambers, in this winding-up matter. Mr. Holyland was the liquidator. The debts exceeded £1,000,000, and the creditors had been paid 10s. in the pound, and wanted the balance. It was stated, as a remarkable fact, that since the matter had been before the court, firms in India and elsewhere had failed, owing the bank no less a sum than £950,000. A call was therefore, imperative.

AMATEUR FOOT RACE.—On Monday morning Messrs. James Davidson and Algernon Hemmings, gentlemen holding official positions, ran 132 yards in Hyde-park for a silver cup or any other piece of plate to the value of £20 which the winner might select, the loser, of course, having to pay for the same. The runners took up their position on the path near Kensington-gardens, and made an even start. They kept side by side for more than two-thirds of the distance, when Mr. Davidson slightly led, and eventually won a fast race, but by barely half a yard.

DEATH THROUGH THE BITE OF A PYTHON.—A man named William Supple, who had been employed as a keeper in the Zoological Gardens, Dublin, was bitten on Tuesday afternoon by a python while he was repairing the reptile house. Violent vomiting ensued, which was supposed to be caused by fear, and he was removed to Steven's Hospital, where he died on the same evening. The resident surgeon of the hospital was examined at the inquest, and deposed to his belief that the deceased died of congestion of the lungs, from which he had been suffering for some time, and the jury adopted his opinion.

FUNERAL OF THE EARL OF ROSSE.—On Wednesday the University of Dublin paid a high tribute of respect to the memory of the late Earl of Rosse. All the Fellows, Doctors, Officers, and Undergraduates carried the body in procession from the hearse to the University chapel, the great college bell was tolled, and every token of grief that affectionate respect and esteem could devise was bestowed. The funeral then passed along the principal streets of Dublin to the railway station, from whence the remains were conveyed by special train to Parsonstown, the burial place of the deceased nobleman's ancestors.

FATAL FALL INTO AN AREA.—On Saturday an inquest was held at Marylebone Workhouse on the body of George Glover, aged seven years, who was killed by the giving way of some railings over an area at the corner of Union and Highworth streets, Lisson-grove, on Tuesday afternoon last. It appeared that this was not the first time the railings in question had given way. The deceased had received a severe punctured wound in the abdomen, which caused his death from internal hemorrhage. The jury, after some deliberation, found a verdict of Accidental Death.

DOGS.—The reduced dog-tax seems likely to be better collected than the higher duty has been. The tax on dogs in England was assessed on only 301,281 dogs in 1856; in 1866 the number had increased to 358,472, and 79,281 dogs were returned by surveyors of taxes as exempt. Between the 6th of April and the 31st of July, 1867, 656,971 dog licences were taken out; 367,775 were granted by stamp distributors, and 229,202 by officers of excise. In Scotland only 36,365 dogs were assessed to taxation in the year ending the 24th of May, 1866, and 44,555 were returned by surveyors of taxes as exempt; between the 25th of May and the 31st of July, 1867, 33,481 dog licences were granted.

DREADFUL SUICIDE.—At an early hour on Monday morning, Mr. John Doyle, 60 years of age, who carried on the business of a cotton dealer in Liverpool, committed suicide by jumping from his bedroom window into the street, a depth of between 20 and 30 feet. He fell upon his head, and death was almost instantaneous Some two or three years since he lost several thousand pounds by speculation in cotton, and a few months afterwards he quarrelled with his wife, and inflicted a wound upon her arm with a carving-knife, from the effects of which she died. These things preyed upon his mind, and he took to drink, becoming a man of most intemperate habits.

SWINDLING A PRISONER'S WIFE.—A singular case of obtaining money and goods by false pretences was tried at the Middlesex Sessions on Wednesday. A man named Bloomfield went to the lodgings of a Mrs. Cooper, whose husband was undergoing a sentence of imprisonment in Holloway Gaol, and obtained from her £5 and some of Cooper's underclothing under pretext in respect to the former of obtaining his release and the latter for his personal comfort. The prisoner in defence and by his cross-examination made a counter charge of immorality against Mrs Cooper; but he was convicted and sentenced to two years' hard labour, the judge saying that the prosecutrix left the court without a stain on her character.

A MAN BURIED ALIVE. — Mr. Richards, coroner for Surrey, has just held an inquiry at the Black Horse Tavern, High-street, Poplar, respecting the death of Frederick Souden, aged 45 years. Emanuel Scott said that he was employed on the works of the south dock of the East and West India Dock Extension. The deceased was an excavator, and it was his duty to fill wagons with earth that had been dug out of the docks. The wagons were two in number, and they were drawn along the tramway by means of an engine. At eight o'clock, while the deceased was filling a wagon, the earth at the top of the side of the dock gave way and fell upon him. He was buried alive, and then the weight of the falling earth shoved him against the wagon. His head was knocked against it and his brains were dashed out. The jury returned a verdict, "That the deceased was killed by an accidental land slip."

REMOVAL OF DEAD BODIES FROM THE CITY.—A notice has been issued by the parochial authorities that in consequence of a portion of the south or front churchyard of St. Sepulchre, Snow-hill, being required for the Holborn-valley improvements, the dead bodies lying there will be removed with all due care to the City cemetery at Ilford. It is intimated that those persons who wish to claim the bodies of their relations and friends may have them for the purpose of interment elsewhere.

THE LIGHTING OF HYDE-PARK.—An improvement has just been effected in the lighting of Hyde-park by the substitution of a new kind of lamp for the defective ones lately in use. They are constructed on a new principle. The old-fashioned gas lamps are so constructed that the rays, instead of being deflected downwards, are allowed to ascend, and thus a great quantity of valuable light is lost. The new lamps are so contrived that the light will be shed directly down upon the pavement beneath.

A SUFFOLK BATTUE.—A few days since his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge visited the Duke of Grafton at Euston. Annexed is the result of three days' shooting:—First day—198 pheasants; 24 partridges, 27 hares, 9 rabbits, and 4 woodcocks—total, 262. Second day—368 pheasants, 31 partridges, 139 hares, 18 rabbits, 1 woodcock—total, 557. Third day—434 pheasants, 3 partridges, 66 hares, 11 rabbits, 4 woodcocks—total, 518. Grand total, 1,337 head.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL.—The imports of wool from the Australian colonies this year bid fair to exceed 120,000,000lb. These imports have been making a great and rapid progress of late years, having amounted in 1866 to 113,773,694lb, while in 1865 the corresponding total was 109,734,261lb.; in 1864 99,037,459lb.; in 1863 77,173,446lb.; in 1862 71,339,842lb; in 1861 68,506,222lb.; in 1860 59,166,616lb.; in 1859 53,700,542lb.; in 1858 51,104,560lb.; and in 1857 49,209,655lb. Thus for ten years there was an unchecked advance—an advance which is still continuing.

FIRE IN KENTISH TOWN.—At about half-past two on Thursday morning a fire occurred on the premises of the London Pianoforte Company, situate in Castle-road, Kentish Town, destroying the factory of three floors, about 60 feet long by 20 feet wide; contents and machinery nearly destroyed, and stock in open yard damaged by fire. The stores of Mr. J. E. Morrison, iron bedstead maker, in Railway Arches Nos. 30, 31, 32; gates and window frames damaged by fire, and glass broken. The London Pianoforte Company are insured in the Phœnix Fire Office.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT BY FIRE.—A dreadful accident happened on Saturday to a young girl aged 18 years, named Rebecca Young, who occupied the position of housemaid at White's-lodge, Putney. Whilst she was cleaning a fender, and in a stooping position, a spark flew out of the fire, which she had just previously lighted, and lodged on the back portion of her dress; she was unconscious of this until her dress ignited, and she was soon in one sheet of flame. Her screams brought immediate assistance, and the fire was put out, but it was found that her injuries from burns were so great that it was necessary to take her to St. George's Hospital, where she died.

CLEVER SMUGGLERS DETECTED.—At the London Mansion-house, on Wednesday, Mr. Vander-Moolen was fined £100 for smuggling. The trick was ingenious, but not clever enough to deceive the experienced eyes of Mr. Fowler, examining officer of customs at Brewer's-quay, London-bridge. The prisoner and another man landed three casks from the Diana, of Amsterdam, as "vegetables preserved in salt, value £3, free of duty." On examination the casks were found to have false heads, containing 124lb. of cigars, worth 15s. per lb., without duty, which was 5s. per lb. On non-payment of the fine, the prisoner was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

THE RESCUE SOCIETY.—The fourteenth report of this excellent Association for the Redemption of Fallen Women from a life of shame has just been published. It recounts another year's hard and faithful contest with the evil which is its topic—one not without happy fruit, but yet lamentably disproportioned to the extent of the social curse in question. The society gains, however, though slowly, in public support, and its subscription list shows no advance; but it is at this present moment in urgent want of funds. One statement made in its preface is frightful; it declares that three out of five of the workhouse girls of London come eventually upon the streets.

SHOCKING DEATH.—On Friday morning, while some people were passing near an excavation in Parliament-fields, Liverpool, they observed a man lying at the bottom. The body was raised to the level ground as soon as possible, but life was found to be extinct, the head and skull of the deceased being severely fractured. On the person of the deceased (Mr. Gowland) being searched, a gold watch and £300 were found in his pockets. There were no marks of foul play on the body of the deceased, and it is believed that the deceased, who is well known at all the principal seaports in the kingdom, missed his way in the dark, and fell into the quarry.

A BRILLIANT DRESS.—The *Sport* describes the wedding dress worn by the Queen of Greece on the occasion of her marriage. She had a robe of cloth of silver embroidered with bouquets of silver flowers, buttoned down the front by enormous diamonds, fastened round the waist by a belt in the Greek pattern of diamonds, a smaller trimming to match running round the top of the corsage and sleeves; necklace, bracelets, &c., in diamonds, a diadem being placed on the forehead, whilst the royal crown in diamonds was fastened at the back of the bride's head. The train, of several yards in length, was of crimson velvet lined with ermine.

DEATH OF THE REV. JAMES HAMILTON, D.D.—On the assembling of the Presbyterian Church, Regent-square, on Sunday forenoon, it was announced that the pastor of the church, the Rev. James Hamilton, D.D., had died that morning at three o'clock. The announcement was not altogether unexpected, as the deceased gentleman had been absent from his duties for several months through ill-health. Dr. Hamilton was a native of Strathblane, Stirlingshire, and was born in the year 1814. He had laboured in Regent-square for a little over a quarter of a century. Dr. Hamilton was the author of several works which have been favourably received, besides being a somewhat industrious contributor to religious periodical literature.

ANOTHER SHOCKING MINE ACCIDENT.—A triple fatality has occurred in North Staffordshire, at the iron ore works of Messrs Dawes, near Ipstones. The three men killed were sinking a shaft, in which they had bored a hole and charged it for a shot. The fuse was lighted, and, as is the practice, the men were being drawn up quickly out of the way. They had been drawn some twenty-five yards, when the rope, a new one, broke, and the men fell to the bottom just as the shot exploded. They were killed instantly, their bodies being very much bruised, and many of their bones broken. To their verdict of "Accidental death" the coroner's jury have appended the opinion "that the accident would have been avoided if there had been proper care and management in the superintendence of the works."

ISLE OF MAN.—An account of the revenue and expenditure of this island was issued from the Queen's printing-office on Saturday, from which it appears that the net revenue for the year ending the 31st of March, 1867, amounted to £44,390, and the total expenditure to £34,945, leaving a balance due to the island authorities of £9,444 sterling, £1,142 of which represented one-ninth of the revenue for the quarter ending the 31st of March, 1867, and £8,302 the surplus unappropriated after deducting all expenses. The items of expenditure include £3,145 for effective and non-effective charges, £12,167 for the Civil List, £2,300 for harbours, £3,785 for one-ninth and two-ninths parts of net revenue, and £10,000 interest of loan on Port Erin and payment to Exchequer; and sums were also paid on account of education, Coastguard, Volunteers, and Board of Works departments, amounting collectively to £3,546.

POPE CHASSEPOT.—A letter from Rome, in the *Univers*, says:—"The officers of the French artillery maintain that the Chassepot musket is superior to the Sevryn, which the Roman Government was about to adopt. It is more compact, they say, and less complicated. It can be more easily kept in good order, especially in active service; it is also more accurate in its fire, and has a longer range, &c. The principal reason, they add, for rejecting the Sevryn is, that its cartridge has a metallic breech, and weighs 52 grammes (1¾ oz.), while that of the Chassepot is of paper or silk, and weighs only 35 grammes. If this be so, the result would be that the infantry soldier with the Sevryn and carrying an equal weight of cartridges would be able to fire 35 shots, while another, provided with the Chassepot, could discharge his weapon 52 times, and in the latter case each shot would be more effective. Under these circumstances the Pontifical Government, acting with its usual prudence, has suspended the proposed conversion of its present muskets, and the visit of M. Massochi, head of the Papal Ordnance Department to Brussels, where he was to order the necessary changes, has been postponed until further orders."

EXPORT OF COAL.—Return of the quantity of coal exported from the port of Grimsby, October, 1867.—To Belgium, 1,677 tons; to Denmark, 2,774 tons; to France, 4,446 tons; to Hanseatic Towns, 614 tons; to Holland, 538 tons; to Ionian Islands, 431 tons; to Italy, 762 tons; to Norway, 2,330 tons; to Prussia, 3,063 tons; to Russia, Black Sea, 258 tons; to Sardinia, 1,459 tons; to Spain, 565 tons; to Sweden, 2,207 tons. Foreign, 21,184 tons; corresponding period, 1866, 21,030 tons; coastwise, 3,441 tons; corresponding period, 1866, 3,107 tons;—total, 24,625 tons; total, corresponding period, 1866, 24,137 tons. Increase this year, 488 tons.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE 4TH TOWER HAMLET VOLUNTEERS.—On Saturday evening the 4th Tower Hamlets Volunteers were presented with a new set of colours by the Rev. J. S. Grove, the vicar of Shoreditch. The colours formerly belonged to the Shoreditch Volunteers of 1798, and bore the parish arms, and beneath them were the mottoes "Church and King," and "Firm to our Trust." The presentation of the colours took place in Cowper-street drill hall. About 300 members of the corps were present. The vicar, who was accompanied by the churchwardens of the parish, delivered a few appropriate remarks; and Colonel Thompson, on receiving the colours on behalf of the corps, expressed satisfaction at the honour which had been done them.

A NEW RELIGION.—A new sect is attracting some attention in New York. Its members give themselves the names of "the Disciples." They profess a religion most *primitive and simple*. They discard all forms; the only ceremonies to which they adhere are the communion and baptismal services. Aside from the Bible they have no book. They use no pulpit or altar, or, rather, the nearest approach to a substitute is an ordinary rosewood table. However, they consent to the organ. Their preaching resembles somewhat that of the Congregationalists, though they may justly be said to lean toward the doctrines of the Universalists. If we could fancy a mixture of Methodism and Positivism one might comprehend the peculiarity of "the Disciples." It is said that the sect is quite powerful in the Western States.

POULTRY. — The high prices given for fowls during the mania about the Cochin-China breed are not entirely things of the past. At the sale of Lady Holmesdale's poultry, which was held at Linton-park, Maidstone, on Thursday, 114 Dorking fowls realised over £400. The birds were sold singly, and the best specimens commanded extreme prices. One well-known exhibitor at the poultry shows gave 28 guineas for a single cock, and £30 for two hens. Several of the chickens of the present year produced above £10 each. The fowls were distributed over all parts of the country, some purchasers coming from Scotland, others from Somerset. The great merit of Lady Holmesdale's birds is their extreme size combined with beauty of plumage. Many of the hens of this breed weigh over 10lb. each, and the cocks have been known to reach 15lb.—*Pall-mall Gazette.*

DISTRESS IN LONDON.—A benevolent gentleman, who devotes much talent and energy in promoting the usefulness of that very valuable institution, Field-lane Refuge, in a letter of the 22nd Nov., respecting the "Ragged Church" meetings held there every Sunday morning, and to which the outcast houseless poor of London from some miles round gladly resort, makes these startling remarks:—"For the past two Sundays I have opened the Youths' Institute after the large room was full, and have simultaneously conducted the services—having in one day 1,130, and the other 1,164 homeless poor. So early in the season we have not had so much distress in my remembrance, and we shall require all the assistance kind Providence may be pleased to send us to keep some of these poor creatures from the grave."

A NONCONFORMIST MAYOR.—In reference to the mayoralty of Stafford, a contemporary says:—Mr. Silvester, the new chief magistrate, is a Nonconformist, and before his election stated that he intended to go in State to his own place of worship. He was threatened with opposition, but refused to reconsider his determination, and eventually was chosen. He immediately issued cards of invitation to the councillors to accompany him to chapel on Sunday morning. Accordingly a number of gentlemen, including Churchmen, assembled and went with the new mayor to the chapel, the mace and other insignia being borne before his worship. The rector of the parish joined the procession, but left at the chapel door for his church. The moral is, that the mayor enjoys the respect of all his fellow-citizens, whether Churchmen or Dissenters.

CHURCH LIVINGS FOR SALE.—The *Times* of the 14th inst. says:—Several important livings in the Church of England are announced for sale. Among them are:—The rectory of Marston Magna, near Sherborne, in connection with which, it is said, there is an excellent house, with £300 a year, and 87 acres of excellent glebe; the present incumbent is 66 years of age. The rectory of Blenworth, Hampshire, with first-class residence, £244 a year; population, 220; present incumbent's age, 58. The rectory of Great Aaby, near Appleby, with excellent house and £280 a year; present incumbent 70 years of age. The rectory of Brompton Ralph, Somerset, with excellent modern house, £550 a year; age of present incumbent, 67. A rectory in a good part of Ireland with £450 a year, population small; price, £2,000.

STARVATION. — On Saturday an inquest was held at the King's Head, Broad-street, Bloomsbury, on Charles O'Neill, 28, a wanderer in search of employment. Deceased had for months wandered about, sleeping at night where he could find even a stone or a piece of wood on which to lay his head; but at times when fortune favoured him, he would have a bed at the common lodging-house in Short's-gardens, but never had any food there. On Tuesday night he slept there, and on the following morning he was found in so weak a state that he was removed to St. Giles's Workhouse, in a dying and a most filthy condition. He was kept up for a time with brandy and other stimulants. He died shortly after from the effects of inflammation of the lungs and heart, caused by exposure to cold and the want of the common necessaries of life. Verdict accordingly.

DEATH OF A SAILOR FROM VIOLENCE.—An inquest was recently held in Church-street, Mile-end New Town, on the body of Joseph Chenery, aged 45 years. On the 8th of August the deceased was removed to the Whitechapel Workhouse from the Derwentwater, a vessel in the St. Katherine's Docks, in which he had been sent home as destitute from St. Helena. He was in a very filthy and destitute condition. He died in the workhouse on Tuesday last. A *post-mortem* examination showed that he had received a blow on the head, and that a tumour had formed at the base of the brain. Three ribs were broken, but they had united. The spleen was torn half across, and it was evident that he had been subjected to very rough treatment some months ago. A verdict of death from injury to the head, but how caused there was no evidence to show, was recorded.

THE GIRL DRESSED IN MAN'S CLOTHES.—Eliza Akast *alias* Elizabeth Spencer, was brought before Alderman Causton at the London Guildhall, on Tuesday, charged with being found wandering without any visible means of subsistence. The prisoner was found on Ludgate-hill on the 22nd of October, dressed in male attire, and, not being able to give an account of herself, was taken into custody by Job Gates, 457. That officer had since found out that she had that morning left her uncle's at Peckham, and taken his clothes with her, and in the pocket of the trousers there was £6 16s., which, however, she did not know when she took them. She had been before in custody on suspicion of stealing a watch in the house where her mother lodged, and on being discharged by the magistrate at Marylebone Police-court, her uncle took charge of her. After being with him for a short time she went into his room on the morning in question and took away the clothes he had worn on the previous day. Alderman Causton sentenced her to 14 days' imprisonment, and at the expiration of that time to go to a reformatory for five years.

A SPEEDY RETURN TO PRISON.—*Ellen Coleman*, a woman who has spent a large portion of her life in prison, was charged before Mr. Knox, at Marlborough-street, on Saturday, with being drunk and behaving in a refractory manner at the St. James's Workhouse. Bradley, the porter of St. James' Workhouse, said on Friday afternoon the prisoner came to the workhouse. She was drunk, and demanded to be admitted, and made use of such bad language, and behaved in such a refractory manner, that she was compelled to be given into custody. On the 4th of last month she was committed for a month for a similar offence. Prisoner: Forgive me. I have only just come out of prison, after being there a month. Inspector Harrison: We were obliged to have a doctor to the prisoner on Friday night, as she had a fit. Prisoner: Forgive me. I had a fit. Mr. Knox: If you persist in gin-drinking, you will have fits, and die a miserable death. You are never out of the hands of the police, and you are the greatest drunkard in existence. You will be fined 40s., or a month, as a drunken and disorderly person, and by going to prison will be taken care of if you have fits. The prisoner (as she was leaving the court) said, "I will make away with myself."

THE MACKAY GUN.—On Wednesday some further experiments were made on the beach at Crosby, near Liverpool, with the Mackay windage-gun. The battery consisted of an 8-inch and a 6-inch gun, and there were two targets composed of iron plates 6 inches in thickness and backed by large pieces of timber. The first shot fired was from the 6-inch gun, with a cylindrical steel bolt of 82 lbs. weight, and with a charge of 12 lbs. The penetration was complete, the ball being carried several hundred yards past the target. Several shots were then fired also from the 6-inch gun, at different elevations, for the purpose of testing the range and accuracy of aim. A cast-iron bolt weighing 72 lbs. and a charge of 12 lbs. were used, and the ball was carried in some cases 5,000 or 6,000 yards distance. Experiments were afterwards made with the 8-inch gun.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT NEWTON ST. CYRES.—As the first up-train from Crediton on Friday morning was nearing the Newton St. Cyres Station to stop, it was by some mistake turned on to the broad gauge rails, which run side by side with those of the narrow gauge. The train thus got completely off the track, blocking up the line. Fortunately the train was going slowly, and was brought to a standstill without tearing up the permanent way to any considerable extent, or causing serious injury to the passengers, though some of them were severely shaken. Mr. J. Tyler, traffic superintendent of Queen-street Station, Exeter, was telegraphed for, and was speedily on the spot with a strong body of men, but the line was not cleared for traffic for several hours. The passengers and luggage being transferred from one train to another at the point of obstruction.

THE ROYAL BANK OF LIVERPOOL.—At Vice-Chancellor Malins's Chambers, on Saturday, an application was made for an order on the provincial liquidator to refund a sum of money placed at the bank shortly before *its suspension* to meet certain bills of exchange. Mr. Allen, who applied, cited a case, he said, in point, contending that money placed at a bank for a specific purpose made a great difference in its returns. The Chief Clerk, Mr. Buckley, considered that he had no power. The money was placed to the general credit of the bank, and could not be refunded. Messrs. Field, who appeared for Mr. Banner, the liquidator, said some of the bills had been retired by a third party, and others might be paid. The matter stood over until Wednesday, by which time it was said something might be done as to the business being resumed. The Chief Clerk said that although he might regret the hardship of the case, he believed the law was clear on the subject.

MR. MURPHY IN DUDLEY.—On Monday night a tea party and lecture were given in the Old Theatre, New-hall-street, under the presidency of Mr. F. W. G. Barrs, J.P. About 300 persons sat down to tea, and the building was crowded afterwards. Colonel Brockman did not attend as announced. The proceedings terminated about nine o'clock. Everything passed off quietly. Towards the end of the meeting Mr. Murphy said he had 60,000 men ready to enter the nunneries if the Government would not. He also said he should placard every town he had lectured in, asking persons to come to him for that purpose. Mr. Murphy said he had received a telegram from Blackburn stating that by the time he got it the doors hitherto closed against them would be burst open. The lecturer concluded by asking for subscriptions to erect a travelling hall, to be carried everywhere he went.

SALE OF ECCLESIASTICAL VESTMENTS.—There was a sale by auction on Tuesday of ecclesiastical vestments at Messrs. Debenham and Storr's, King-street, Covent-garden, which appeared to excite an unusual degree of interest. The vestments were hung round the room, and were closely inspected by a large number of persons who are interested in what is termed "ritual development." There were chasubles, copes, tunicles, dalmatics, and almost every variety of dress used by Roman Catholic bishops and priests in the administration of the highest offices of the Church, some of them bearing representations of the Saviour, saints, apostles, and martyrs. They were a long way in advance of any that up to the present time have been used by clergymen of the Church of England, even at St. Matthias's and St. Alban's.

THE EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY AND ITS CHANCELLOR.—The *Edinburgh Courant* says: "In the event of the possible retirement from impaired health of Lord Brougham from the Chancellorship of our university, it has, we learn, been resolved upon to propose for that honour his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh Should the choice fall on his Royal Highness—of which there cannot be a doubt—it would be an appropriate compliment to a prince who, during his residence among us, availed himself of the benefits of our schools, took a lively interest in all our institutions, and by his urbanity won the admiration of the community. The university that so recently did itself honour by conferring upon Prince Alfred a degree, could not do itself greater service than by conferring on so popular and accomplished a prince the highest honour and greatest distinction it has in its power to bestow. We cannot conceive anything more likely to gratify the venerable and illustrious peer than his being succeeded by a prince of the blood who owes part of his early education to the same school as himself.

M. DURUY, the Minister of Public Instruction, when lately on a tour of inspection in the provinces (says the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*) asked a village schoolboy to mention to him some of the principal events of the reign for which France ought to be grateful to the Emperor Napoleon. The boy answered, without hesitation, "The Mexican expedition and the Credit Mobilier." The minister looked daggers, but said nothing, and speedily left the school. As soon as he was gone the schoolmaster gave the boy a caning. The story reads too good to be true, but it is true nevertheless, because I take it from the report of a judicial proceeding. The boy's father summoned the schoolmaster before a commissary of police for an assault on his son, and in the course of the hearing of the case it came out that in M. Duruy's modern history of France, published for the use of schools, the Mexican expedition and the creation of the Credit Mobilier are mentioned among the great acts of the reign. It was quite innocently that the boy happened to select these two singularly infelicitous examples which had chanced to dwell in his memory.

A MAN AND HIS WIFE SUFFOCATED.—On Wednesday morning Thomas Jaques, foreman to Mr. Dunderdale, farmer, Thorrock-lane, Gainsborough, and his wife, were found dead in bed. The man was not at his work at the usual time in the morning, and Mr. Dunderdale accordingly went to Jaques' house, which is in the stackyard, and knocked at the door, which was locked on the inside. Not getting a reply, he began to think there was something wrong, and went and tried the bedroom window, which was on the ground floor. Finding this unfastened, he opened it, and looked in, and saw the man and his wife lying to all appearance dead. Mr. Dunderdale then went and examined them more closely, and found them both cold and stiff. It is supposed they were suffocated. In the room there was a stove containing some cinders. Both Jaques and his wife were about fifty years of age; they had been employed by Mr. Dunderdale since the harvest, and were living in the house by themselves

ATTACK UPON A MEDICAL GENTLEMAN.—About ten o'clock on Saturday evening a mob assembled in front of St. Mary's churchyard, at the end of Sand-street, Birmingham, where an Irish orator was haranguing the mob, and stigmatising the

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

THE NEW COUNTY COURT ACT.

The *Law Times* says:—"The question whether the new County Court Act is or is not in operation has not yet been formally submitted to the full court; but, acting on the decision of a Judge in Chambers, the masters are refusing costs under £20. Seeing the immense inconvenience to some parties, and loss to all, daily and hourly sustained, some arrangement might surely be made by which the disputed point could be set at rest. Our own view of it we have already stated, and the abundant discussion it has since received has not disturbed that conclusion. We contend that the enactment that the Act shall come into operation on the 1st of January overrides the whole statute; that if it is to come into effect on that day it does not so before that day, and, not being in operation, it is practically no law at all, and cannot be used as a law for any purpose, consequently the sections enacting that after the passing of this Act certain things shall be done, is as if it had been in a Bill only, and not in a statute; the part is inoperative because the whole is inoperative. But there is another interpretation, not inconsistent with the whole Act. The words "after the passing of this Act" in section 5 are not designed to apply to the refusal of costs, but to limit the operation of the section to actions brought after the passing of the Act, or, to put it more plainly in other words, the section means this, that after January 1 no costs shall be allowed in actions for less than £20, if such actions have been brought since the passing of the Act.—*Law Times.*

THE DEPUTATION TO THE HOME SECRETARY.

No one can excuse the language used by Finlen, one of the deputation. But the Home Secretary ought to have received the deputation, although they were only working men, and although they came to plead for the lives of condemned Fenians. His refusal was an error of taste and judgment; it showed a want of grace, of wisdom, and even, we regret to say, of good feeling. It is painful to think that in a case where the lives of four men are at stake, a Minister could not somehow find time to listen to a few words from a few respectable working men pleading for mercy. Mr. Hardy might very well have received a certain number of the deputation and heard their appeal. The whole scene was a ludicrous and a scandalous one. The orators of the deputation were very foolish and much to blame; the Minister was certainly not wise and not free from censure. One thing we are sure Mr. Hardy, whatever mistakes he may make, will not do. He will not allow the inexcusable violence and the silly menaces employed to prejudice him against any appeal that may be made in the cause of mercy. He will not, we feel convinced, allow himself to be steeled against such appeals by the notion that he is bound to prove his disregard of Mr. Finlen's threats. Even yet we cannot bring ourselves to believe that the Government have made up their minds to enforce the death-sentence against the Manchester convicts.—*Star.*

After alluding to the threats made use of, and describing them as insufferable, the *Pall-mall Gazette* observes:—After this, it must surely be obvious to every one that the question, as many of the Fenians view it, is not whether the murder of Brett was a political or a common offence, but whether it was an offence at all, or merely an unlucky accident which happened in carrying out a "glorious, brave, and plucky" design. Men of this kind do not draw refined distinctions. What they practically claim is to be regarded as patriots and heroes, and to be recognised as such by the very Government of which they are attacking the existence. If Mr. Finlen is right, the proper course would be to treat Allen and the rest as prisoners of war at the most, and even to release them on parole not to serve again against the British Government, say for the next five years.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TELEGRAPHS.

The pressing question of telegraphic communication with India begins largely to occupy the public mind. We learn from the *North British Mail* that, at a meeting of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, held on the 13th instant, Alexander Ronaldson in the chair, the committee appointed at the last meeting to draw up a memorial to her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, on the present unsatisfactory state of tel-graphy with India, laid before the meeting the document in question, which, we understand, was generally approved, and forwarded at once to Sir Stafford Northcote. The memorial says that, notwithstanding the present great expense of transmitting messages to India, the mercantile community of that important city would not complain if they could be assured that the messages would reach their destination within anything like a reasonable or definite period. Various instances were given of delay and inaccuracies in the transmission of messages, and the memorialists asked that the Government would give the subject their early and special consideration, and adopt such measures as to them might seem suitable to remedy the defect complained of. We are happy to add that a memorial in a similar sense has been signed by 40 of the leading financial and commercial firms in the city of London, and was forwarded to the Secretary of State for India, on the 14th instant, by the Lord Mayor, whose long connection in business with our Eastern possessions will, we hope, give weight to representations which, on every ground, commercial and political, deserve the earnest attention of her Majesty's Government.—*Sunday Gazette.*

WHERE ARE THE POLICE?

Few know the extent of the area guarded, or supposed to be guarded, by the police, and the relative weakness of the force for the duty which it has to discharge. One sentence will bring the facts home to the public. The area of the metropolitan police district is 700 square miles; the total strength of the police is 6,999, in round numbers 7,000; and since not more than half can be on duty at once, these figures give five constables per square mile. Some deduction should be made for men sick, wounded, on furlough, and in reserve; but, taking the figures as they stand, we ask how can the subjects of Queen Victoria and their property be adequately protected by so small a force? The mystery is, how Sir Richard Mayne obtains his reserves for critical occasions, and how he is able to set apart men for special duty? We can only suppose that he accomplishes the feat by robbing Peter to pay Paul—partially weakening the watch in some districts to accumulate strength in others. No wonder that we hear of audacious robberies in the public streets, and of predatory bands perambulating our thoroughfares with comparative, and sometimes absolute impunity. "Where are the police?" is a common cry. The answer is everywhere and nowhere. The homœopathic system offers but a meagre safeguard, and it is time that Parliament should cast a vigilant eye on the defenceless state of the metropolis.—*Telegraph.*

THE FENIAN EXECUTION.

The execution of the three unfortunate men who were hanged at Manchester has affected people very differently. Those who sympathise with them in their political object consider them as martyrs whose blood was shed in the holiest cause; those who think that Ireland has been sadly misgoverned believe that this country is greatly to blame for such occurrences as the rescue of Deasey and Kelly. They consider, however, that the killing of a policeman required the execution of the man who killed him; and if they feel any regret, it is that others who did not directly take part in that act should also have suffered death. There are many, probably the great majority in this country, who are highly satisfied that the treasonable plots of the Fenians should have been met with such vigour, and that so fair an occasion as the murder of a policeman in the discharge of his duty should have been taken advantage of by Government to vindicate the cause of order. It must be admitted, whatever view may be taken of the late executions, that her Majesty's Government has acted with decision in this matter, and has not suffered itself to be intimidated from doing that which it considered to be its duty. The arrangements for the execution at Manchester were so complete as to have saved the sympathisers with the condemned. No political execution has hitherto taken place in the reign of our Queen; we use the word political because we cannot consider that the two men who did not attack the murdered man suffered in any other cause. It may be that some political offences should be visited with death, and if so undoubtedly Gould and Larkin richly deserved their fate. We trust, however, that henceforth the punishment of death will be strictly reserved for those who kill their fellow men, and that indictments for treason-felony, or misdemeanor, as the case may be, will be considered sufficient in cases where death has not ensued from the acts of those who may use violence in order to gain political ends. Most people think that there was no real distinction in the three cases. There are others, whose opinion we share, who think differently. —*Observer.*

SABRE BAYONETS.—The French Government has just ordered 60,000 sabre bayonets from the metal works of Eskilstuna, in Sweden. They are to be delivered by the end of March, 1868.

THE ROYAL BANK OF LIVERPOOL WINDING UP.

In the Chancery Chambers, on Wednesday, an application—one among a number—was brought before the Chief Clerk in respect to the retiring of bills of exchange, to meet which acceptors had deposited money at the Royal Bank of Liverpool shortly before the suspension, and the voluntary liquidator was willing the same should be applied for the purpose intended, but the Chief Clerk declined to sanction the proceeding, on the ground that the money had been paid into the bank and mixed with the general cash. An order had been directed to be drawn up on Friday next for the voluntary winding up, and it was understood the several cases would be considered by the liquidator. It was therefore proposed that the matter should stand over, and follow the other cases.

The Chief Clerk, in granting the application, said the parties would take on themselves the responsibility. He had expressed his opinion on the point raised.

THE MANCHESTER ELECTION.

Mr. Jacob Bright was returned by a triumphant majority over the numbers polled by both his opponents on Tuesday. The poll commenced with great spirit, and was carried on with unflinching activity all day. Mr. Bright had a majority of 700 at nine o'clock, and this majority was steadily increased up to the close of the poll. He has polled the largest number of electors that ever voted for any candidate at a Manchester election, and one of the largest majorities. There was a good deal of excitement about the committee-rooms, but with this exception the election was a very quiet one, the discontinuance of cabs to bring up electors having relieved the streets of the great inconvenience arising to the public. Mr. Bright only polled 5,665 votes at the last election, while Mr. James polled 6,712, Mr. Bazley, 7,919, and Mr. Heywood, 4,229. The four o'clock return was as follows:—

Bright	8,260
Bennett	6,409
Henry	642

The *Daily News*, writing on the subject, says:—Mr. Disraeli will see by the state of the poll at Manchester that he has not yet succeeded in mystifying the middle classes of the country. The return of Mr. Jacob Bright by a majority of nearly two thousand over the Ministerial candidate is a fact which he will assuredly not misunderstand. Alderman Bennett had evidently studied the lesson of the great political "Educator," and might have been trusted to follow Lord John Manners at a Crystal Palace demonstration. He took great pains to profess that subdued and moderate Conservatism which has lately come into fashion, but he could not avoid proclaiming himself the follower and supporter of Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli. In Manchester such a profession is still tantamount to a declaration of hostility to sound Liberal principles. Mr. Jacob Bright took his stand on the most advanced position of his party. He refuses to accept the bill of last Session as a settlement of the question of Reform. He demands such a redistribution of seats as will secure a real representation of the country, and the protection of the vote by the ballot, in order that the House of Commons may be qualified to approach the great questions of practical legislation—such as Popular Education, the Opening of the Universities, and the Irish Church Establishment. There was a third candidate, of whom it is difficult to speak.

Mr. Mitchell Henry came forward, as he stated, in the interest of "political wisdom," which it seems consists in professing admiration for Mr. Gladstone, denouncing the ballot, and declaring that the representation of the people is now all that could be desired. Manchester has emphatically recorded its sense of this kind of Liberalism. While Alderman Bennett, the avowed supporter of Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, polled the respectable number of 6,409 votes, Mr. Mitchell Henry recorded 642, Mr. Jacob Bright polling 8,260, being 1,851 more than Alderman Bennett, and 1,209 more than both his opponents put together

THE FRIGHTFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION IN SOUTH WALES.

A most appalling explosion took place on Friday, in the Rhondda Valley, Glamorganshire, by which some scores of hard-working people have been hurried into eternity, and hundreds of hearts have been made sad in one of the most picturesque valleys in the mountainous district of the county. The Ferndale Colliery, at which the explosion took place, is situated between two ranges of hills which stretch out from Porth towards Aberdare, and the scene of the sad catastrophe is about four miles from the Porth station.

The Ferndale Colliery for many years has been most successfully worked, the yield of coal having been almost incredible, and employment has been afforded to some 300 men and boys. On Friday last it is said some 260 left their homes to descend the shaft, as it has turned out for by far the greatest portion of them, for the last time. Naturally accustomed to their dangerous occupation, no thought of what was about to happen in so short a space of time entered their heads, and they descended without any fear of their safety or return; but very few of those who went down have been spared to tell the awful tale of what occurred below. The damage, which is something considerable, has been confined to the western workings, and since the explosion took place every effort has been made to remove the *débris* and restore pure air into the pit. But few have been recovered since Saturday, although the most strenuous efforts are being made to get out the bodies. Nearly all the mining engineers and managers residing in the district have visited the pit and rendered whatever assistance lay in their power, and they have held frequent consultations as to the best means of recovering the bodies in the pit, but not a single one it is thought will survive to reach the surface in safety.

A jury has been empannelled by George Overton, Esq., coroner, and, after viewing the bodies, the inquiry was formally adjourned.

At present it is impossible to say the exact number that have perished, as they are variously estimated from 170 to 253.

The vein in which the explosion occurred is the well-known four-feet vein, and is a portion of the new workings. The pit is worked on one level, and is about 300 yards deep, but although the vein is known to be one of the most fiery in the district, the Government inspector a short time since spoke of the colliery as one of the best managed in the district, and the system of ventilation as perfect as it was possible to make such deep and fiery workings.

Many of the poor fellows who were brought up alive, have since died, and the number of deaths so far is 53.

A WARNING TO YOUNG COUNTRY GIRLS.

The following letter appeared in the *Morning Star* of Friday, written by Mr. Talbot, of the National Society for the Protection of Young Girls:—

"By your giving publicity to the following case you will, doubtless, be the means of preventing many young and innocent girls from being entrapped into a life of degradation and misery:—A country girl, about 20 years of age, living at Southend in service, was deprived of her situation by the death of her mistress a short time since. She called at a grocer's shop in that town, enquiring for a place. Some persons having the appearance of ladies and gentlemen were in the shop at the time, and heard what the girl said. They spoke to the young girl, and told her that they were in want of a cook, and would give her £16 per year. She had no friend near to advise her, her mother living forty miles away. Thinking the offer a good one, she accepted it. On Monday last she was brought to London by the parties who had engaged her. When they arrived at the Fenchurch-street Station, two cabs were hired, one for the luggage, the other being occupied by the parties who had engaged the girl. They were driven towards Bayswater, and at length stopped at a house in a retired street. When the young girl got out of the cab, the driver said to her, 'What, are you going to that house? It is the worst house in all London; for God's sake don't go in.' The girl became frightened, and refused to enter; while the driver of the other cab offered to take her to a place where she could lodge for the night. This he did, and left her at a comfortable coffee-house; but when she put her hand into her pocket to get some money to pay the man, she discovered that she had been robbed of all her money. She had one sovereign; her pocket had been completely cut out. She burst into tears, and a lady passing at the time gave her a shilling, with which she paid for her lodging. On Tuesday she left the coffee-house, and gave the box of her clothes in charge of the master of the house. Having the address of a gentleman who had occupied apartments at her mistress's house, she set off from Notting-hill to find her way on foot to Stratford. This she accomplished after walking four or five hours. She was kindly received by the gentleman, in whose family she remains for the present. Had she entered the house to which she had been first taken, doubtless she would have been ruined.

"Should this letter meet the eye of the cabman or any one who can give information, I shall be greatly obliged, in order that this den of infamy may be discovered, and the owners and occupiers severely punished."

THE CONDEMNED FENIANS AT MANCHESTER.

EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDINGS AT THE HOME-OFFICE.

On Monday afternoon a deputation, appointed at the meeting held on Clerkenwell-green on Sunday morning, attended at the Home-office for the purpose of presenting a memorial to the Home Secretary, praying that the lives of the condemned Fenians at Manchester might be spared. The deputation, which was composed of between 60 and 80 working men, assembled in Whitehall shortly after two o'clock. Before that hour an intimation was conveyed to some of its members that Mr. Hardy would refuse to receive them, and that a letter to that effect, written by the private secretary of the right hon. gentleman, was awaiting Mr. Finlen, who had written to ask for the interview. Mr. Finlen, however, accompanied by his friends, entered the Home-office at half-past two o'clock, and after some parleying with one of the officials succeeded in obtaining admission to a room immediately adjoining that usually occupied by Mr. Hardy. An "indignation" meeting was immediatly constituted, and Mr. Finlen, who was by general assent voted in the chair, read the following communication, which evoked loud and strong expressions of disapprobation:—

"Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Hardy to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, acquainting him that a deputation had been appointed at a meeting held yesterday afternoon at Clerkenwell-green, to wait upon him in reference to the Fenian convicts under sentence of death at Manchester, and expressing a hope that he would receive them this afternoon. Mr. Hardy desires me to inform you, in reply, that he has already declined to receive deputations on that subject, and equally declines to do so in this instance, though prepared to receive any memorial that may be sent for his consideration."

An official of the Home-office here interposed, and informed the deputation that noisy discussion could not be permitted, whereupon Mr. Finlen peremptorily ordered him to hold his tongue, telling him that he was a "mere servant of the place," and not a member of the deputation.

Mr. Finlen, addressing those present, said he hoped their endeavour would be regarded as a work of humanity. They had no political sympathies in this matter—they simply desired that England should not be disgraced by handing over four political offenders like those of Manchester to Calcraft. In that Home-office, and before the Queen, he would say that they would move heaven and earth to defeat Mr. Hardy (loud cheers). They would go to Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham, and arouse the Irish spirit; and that spirit would be responded to by the Irish in America, and the Government would bring blood upon its head if it did not receive the overtures for mercy which were being made to it (applause). Mr. Hardy committed a disgraceful and egregious blunder, but nothing better could be expected from a member of the party which was designated as "the stupid party."

Mr. Clegg said that not a stone would be left unturned in arousing the Irish spirit in the principal cities and towns of England. They looked upon the condemned men as their brothers, and as their mission of mercy had failed, they should adopt other measures with the view of meeting with success.

Mr. Osborne begged leave to move that they adjourn to make arrangements for a great torch-light meeting on Clerkenwell-green. The spirit which animated them was abroad, and it only wanted calling out to enable them to hold a meeting of 20,000 people on Thursday night.

Mr. M'Sweeney drew a parallel between the course pursued by the Government in the case of the Six Mile-bridge riot, when the presiding judge ruled that conviction could only ensue upon the positive identification of soldiers as having caused the death of one or more persons, and that adopted at the recent trials in Manchester, where the accused were convicted upon evidence which failed to show that they were the actual perpetrators of the act which resulted in the death of Sergeant Brett.

Mr. Connolly said that as there were certain forms to be observed on occasions of that kind, he regretted that the members of the deputation had not got a member of Parliament to introduce them. He attended there, not as a sympathiser with the Fenians, because his experience led him to the belief that the redress of national grievances could be obtained by peaceful means. (Mr. Finlen: In this country.) The condemned men, if hanged, would be dignified by the titles of martyrs and apostles of liberty, whereas if they were dealt with in a different manner they would not occupy the same position in the minds of their countrymen and others. If the sentence on Burke had been carried out, he would now occupy a more dignified position than he does in the eyes of the Irish people. If the Government hanged the Manchester Fenians, they would incite the spirit of revolt in the young Irish mind, whereas if they adopted a different course, and dealt with them as ordinary criminals, they would be advancing a step towards making Ireland a source of immeasurable strength to England, instead of being a source of weakness to her.

Mr. F. Campbell, addressing Mr. Finlen "as the Home Secretary *pro tem.*," asked why he was denied an interview because there was a rent in his garment. If an Eyre were there he would be received, but because the deputation was only composed of working men Mr. Hardy declined to receive them.

Mr. Finlen said he would make this question too hot for an obdurate Tory Government (loud cheers).

Mr. M'Sweeney moved a vote of censure on Mr. Hardy ("Hear, hear," and cheers).

Mr. Finlen: So far as this Government is concerned—I say it in this Home-office, under the roof of authority—that it has disgraced itself by refusing to meet a body of working men who have sacrificed a day's work to come here (hear, hear). I say deliberately that I would throw all the Tory Governments that ever existed into the sea rather than see those glorious, brave, and plucky Fenians, who had rescued Kelly and Deasy, immolated on the scaffold (loud cheering).

One of the messengers having attempted to put a stop to Mr. Finlen's remarks,

Mr. Finlen told him he would not be prevented from giving expression to his feelings, and continued. If the Government shed the blood of these men, their lives shall not be held sacred, or their position as advisers of a good Queen rendered secure by their paltry, bloody, and miserable conduct (enthusiastic cheering).

The deputation then retired, and on leaving the Home-office they found that their proceedings had caused a detachment of police to assemble in front of the building, and that Sir Richard Mayne and Captain Harris had thought it their duty to appear upon the scene. A large crowd had also assembled.

The deputation afterwards met at the Nag's Head, Leather-lane, and Mr. Finlen gave in a report of the proceedings at the Home-office. Several strong speeches were made, and a resolution was adopted pledging those present to hold public meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings on Clerkenwell-green, and to send deputations down to Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and other great manufacturing towns, to hold public meetings there, and request the inhabitants of those places to send deputations to a great torchlight demonstration to be held at Clerkenwell-green on Thursday night. It was further decided to issue placards calling upon the people to meet to petition the Queen upon the question of the fate of the convicted Fenians.

MORE OUTRAGES IN IRELAND.

Late on Saturday night, as Inspector Burke and a constable were standing at the door of Sackville-lane station, a man, accompanied by another, fired at them. They gave chase, but lost sight of the men in an adjoining street.

On Saturday night mobs attacked baker's shops in Belfast, and the police had to charge and disperse them.

A respectable Protestant farmer, named Waters, was murdered on Friday night near Ballymahon, county Longford. The body was discovered next morning on the public road about a mile from his house, with two wounds—one in the back, the other in the chest, from a knife or dagger. Some attribute it to Fenianism, as deceased was heard on that evening to express strong opinions on the conviction of the Manchester Fenians

IRON AND COAL TRADES OF SOUTH WALES.—The reports recently received from the various iron works are of the same unsatisfactory character as before, and not the slightest activity is being evinced in a single branch of the business. The orders being received are said to be inadequate to those just worked out, consequently the number of hands on short time are increasing. Few engagements are entered into by continental houses, as it is not expected that a revival will take take place until next spring. As yet no action has been taken to reduce the wages of the men in this district, but the example set by the North of England masters will probably be followed here. The demand for tin plates has somewhat slackened, and the prices are in buyers' favours. For steam coal there is an average demand, and the collieries on the whole may be said to be tolerably well employed. For house qualities the demand is somewhat inactive.

OPENING OF THE FRENCH CHAMBERS.

THE EMPEROR'S SPEECH.

The French Chambers were opened on Monday by the Emperor in person, who delivered the following speech:—

"MESSIEURS LES SENATEURS,

"MESSIEURS LES DEPUTES,

"The necessity of resuming the uninterrupted discussion of important laws has obliged me to call you together earlier than usual. Recent events have further caused me to experience the wish of availing myself of your sagacity and your assistance.

"Since you separated, vague disquietudes have arisen to affect the public mind in Europe, and to restrict the movements of industry and commercial transactions in all quarters. Notwithstanding the declarations of my Government, which has never varied in its pacific attitude, the belief has been spread that any modification in the internal system of Germany must become a cause of conflict. This state of uncertainty could not endure longer. It is necessary to accept frankly the changes that have taken place upon the other side of the Rhine, to proclaim that so long as our interests and our dignity shall not be threatened, we will not interfere in the transformations effected by the wish of the population. The disquiet that has been displayed is difficult of explanation at a period in which France has offered to the world the most imposing spectacle of conciliation and of peace.

"The Universal Exhibition, which nearly all the Sovereigns of Europe have attended, and in which the representatives of the labouring classes of all countries have met, has drawn closer the ties of fraternity between the nations. It has disappeared, but its traces will leave a deep impression upon our age; for if, after having majestically risen, the Exhibition has only shone with momentary brilliance, it has destroyed for ever a past of prejudices and of errors. The shackles of labour and of intelligence, the barriers between the different peoples, as well as the different classes, international hatreds—these are what the Exhibition has cast behind it. These incontestible pledges of concord do not allow us to dispense with improving the military institutions of France. It is the imperious duty of every Government to follow progress, independently of circumstances, in all the elements which constitute the strength of a country, and it is for us a necessity to bring to perfection our military organisation as our weapons and our navy. The project of law presented to the legislative body divided equally between all citizens the charges of recruitment. That system has appeared too absolute, and arrangements have been come to for mitigating its application. Since then I have thought it advisable to submit this important question to further consideration. In fact, this difficult problem cannot be too carefully investigated; as it touches upon such great and often contradictory interests. My Government will propose new arrangements to you, which, are only simple modifications of the law of 1832, but which achieve the object I have always had in view—the reduction of the effective strength of the army during peace, and its increase during the time of war. You will examine them, as also the organisation of the National Guard Mobile, under the impression of that patriotic idea that the stronger we are the more certain will be the assurance of peace. That peace which it is the wish of us all to preserve seemed for a moment in danger. Revolutionary agitations prepared in the broad daylight threatened the Pontifical States. The Convention of the 15th September not having been carried out, I have been compelled once again to send our troops to Rome, and to protect the power of the Holy See by repelling the invaders. Our conduct could not partake of anything hostile to the unity and independence of Italy; and that nation, for a moment surprised, has not been long in understanding the dangers which these revolutionary manifestations caused to the monarchical principle and to European order. Calm is now almost entirely re-established in the States of the Pope, and we may calculate the proximate time when our troops will be recalled home.

"For us, the Convention of September 15 exists so long as it is not replaced by a new international Act. The relations of Italy to the Holy See interest the whole of Europe, and we have proposed to the Powers to settle these relations at a conference, and thus to prevent new complications.

"Attention has been turned to the Eastern question, from which, nevertheless, the conciliatory spirit of the Powers removes every irritating character. If some differences of opinion have existed between them as to the means of bringing about the pacification of Crete, I am happy to announce that they are all agreed upon two principal points—viz., the maintenance of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire and the amelioration of the condition of the Christians.

"Foreign politics permit us, therefore, to devote all our efforts to domestic improvements. Since your last Session universal suffrage has been called upon to elect a third of the members of the Conseils Généraux. These elections, carried out with calm and independence, have everywhere demonstrated the good feeling of the population. The journey I have made with the Empress in the east and north of France has afforded the opportunity for manifestations of sympathy, which have touched me profoundly. I have been able to ascertain once more that nothing has been able to shake the confidence the people have placed in me, and the attachment they entertain towards my dynasty. For my part I labour incessantly to anticipate their wishes.

"The completion of connecting roads was required by those agricultural classes of whom you are the enlightened representatives. It was for us an act of justice—I should almost say of gratitude—to satisfy this want, and an inquiry upon a large scale is preparing its solution. It will be easy for you, in concert with my Government, to assure the success of this great measure.

"The situation is undoubtedly not free from some embarrassments. Industrial and commercial activity has slackened. This uneasiness is general in Europe, and is in great part due to apprehensions which the good understanding prevailing between the Powers will cause to disappear. The harvest has not been good, and dearness was inevitable, but free trade can alone secure supplies and lower prices. If these various causes prevent the revenue completely balancing the estimates of the budget, the provisions of the laws of finance will not be modified, and we may be allowed to foresee the period when a reduction of taxation may be taken into consideration. This Session will be chiefly devoted to the examination of the laws, of which I took the initiative in the month of January last. The time that has elapsed since then has not altered my convictions respecting the utility of those reforms. Doubtless the introduction of these new liberties exposes the public mind to excitement and to dangerous impulses, but to render them powerless I count at the same time upon the good sense of the country, the progress of public morality, the firmness of repression when required, and the energy and authority of the ruling power. Let us, then, follow up the work which we have undertaken together; for fifteen years we have shared the same ideas, to uphold above controversies and hostile passions our fundamental laws which the popular voice has sanctioned; but at the same time to develop our liberal institutions without weakening the principle of authority. Let us not cease to spread around us the comforts of life by the prompt completion of our means of communication, to multiply the means of instruction, to render access to justice less expensive by simplifying our mode of procedure, to adopt every measure of a nature to render prosperous the social condition of the great masses. If with me you become convinced that this path is that of real progress and of civilisation, let us continue to advance in that agreement of views and sentiments which is a precious guarantee of the public welfare. You will, I trust, vote the laws which will be submitted to you. They will contribute to the greatness and to the wealth of the country. For my part, you may rest assured that I will uphold firmly and strongly the power which has been conferred upon me, for neither obstacles nor unjust opposition will shake either my courage or my faith in the future."

"BOYS WILL BE BOYS."—A short time since, as the Liverpool steamer Constance was lying in the harbour of St. Nazaire, in France, the attention of the captain, who was on deck, was attracted by some boys shouting to him. One of the boys had a letter in his hand, which he said was for "Monsieur le Captaine." The captain in consequence sent a sailor for the letter, and the boys retired some distance from the quay-side, but within sight of the steamer. Inside the envelope the captain found a rude drawing, in the genuine school-boy style, of an artilleryman firing a cannon, the ball of which had evidently made a great hole in an English "Union Jack." On the opposite side of the flag was a "John Bull," shaking a stick with one hand, and carrying a double eye glass in the other, as he utters the familiar phrase, "Goddem." Over the drawing was written—"Misters Englischs, you are sills blockets and dogs, mokey," and underneath, "A bas l'Angleterre." The reading of this epistle was watched with great interest by the young "Mossoos," who ran off in great glee when they saw that the captain had mastered all its mysteries.

PARLIAMENTARY JOTTINGS.

THE rare circumstance of an autumnal Session has given to London life a degree of freshness not often observable at this time of year. It seems to have brought Christmas to us before the ordinary time; carriages are seen bowling about by means of richly-caparisoned horses, and the hammer-cloths with the arms of the owner hanging gracefully from the driving-box, whilst footmen with goodly calves, whether natural or artificial, display their silk stockings to admiring crowds. This all indicates that "master is at home," and that parties are going on—dinners, balls, and such like; and London tradesmen are delighted that they have an extra season. So that my readers will see that the old adage is correct, "It is an ill wind that blows no one any good;" and though the Abyssinian expedition—to sanction which the autumnal Session was necessary—will cost the country four millions at least, we in London do not grumble, because we get some pickings from the assembling of Parliament; and your correspondent is again at his post, prepared to give you extra-Parliamentary information, and relate to you what he sees and hears beyond that given in the ordinary daily papers. Let me, therefore, commence with

THE OPENING.

The day on which the Queen's Speech was read by Royal Commission, opened with a dull November fog; the atmosphere was chilly, and gave everything a dreary aspect. Perhaps this accounted, in some measure, for the little interest taken by the public, for, instead of there being hundreds or thousands in Palace-yard, there were not twenty persons to see the Lords and the faithful Commons enter St. Stephen's to hear the Queen's Speech read. In the House of Lords everything was as dull as outside the building. It is true there were about twenty ladies in the galleries, whose happy faces, in some measure, relieved the gloom; but in all there was an early morning appearance, such as when the master of the house gets up at an extraordinary early hour, to get breakfast before starting on a journey, when the servants have not had time to clean the rooms, and look on with bewilderment at the packing and the fuss. Now, this was exactly what was felt on the 19th of November. The approaches to the House, which were promised to be completed by February, are half done now. The new railing around Palace-yard is up, but the gates are not fixed, neither is the painting finished. Inside the House there was a musty smell, as if damp had penetrated into the leathern cushions. The subordinate officers took their places as if they wondered whether it was right they should be there, and the few Peers present seemed to regard everything as *pro forma* matters. Presently five scarlet cloaked individuals, with cocked hats, walked into the House and took their seats on a bench provided for them in front of the throne. Mr. Slingsby Bethell, a son of Lord Westbury, wigged and gowned as reading clerk, then stepped forward and read in Norman French the proclamation which appointed the commission. The five Peers who composed this sat like statues until each name was given, then the nobleman who was so named bowed his head, and the commission was thus appointed. A message was then sent to the Commons, and there appeared at the bar, ushered by "Black Rod," the Speaker of the House of Commons, attended by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Lord Charles Russell, and about half-a-dozen members of the Lower House. Then the Lord Chancellor, who took his position in the centre of the commissioners, read the Queen's Speech, presenting afterwards a copy to the Speaker; the Commons withdrew, their lordships adjourned, and the ceremony of opening was over. How different would it have been had the Queen herself opened the Parliament! Every seat would have been filled, the galleries would have been occupied with coroneted ladies, the Peers would, for the most part, have been there in their robes, the throne would have been uncovered, and a cheer outside would have burst forth as her Majesty retired, and the loyal people of England would have rejoiced to catch a sight of their sovereign, whose absence from these ceremonials all deplore. How different do they do these things in France! A friend of mine, who was present at the opening of the Corps Legislatif, which singularly enough occurred the same week as our opening of Parliament, thus describes it:—The dresses of the ladies were of the most elegant description. The Empress wore a dress of white embroidered satin, trimmed with velvet, a Marie Antoinette mantle of black lace, a broad sash of black velvet, and a velvet bonnet. The Princess Mathilde was dressed in a satin robe, ornamented with golden buttons and delicate coloured velvet trimmings; and the Princess Murat in a light green satin robe, covered with white lace. The Emperor wore the uniform of a general of division; and the Prince Imperial was in a black velvet dress, with red stockings, and having the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour.

THE ADDRESS.

At the adjourned meeting of the House of Commons in the afternoon of the same day as the opening, there were at least 250 members present; the proposer and seconder of the Address were in their accustomed places, the centre seats of the bench behind the Ministers, and, as is usually the case, they were dressed in uniform. The proposer, Mr. Hart Dyke, is a young man scarcely thirty years of age, who took his seat for the first time for West Kent in 1865; he wore the uniform of a deputy-lieutenant—a scarlet coat, with immense bullion epaulettes, and trowsers with broad silver stripes. Of course, his speech in moving an Address to her Majesty was an exact echo of the Royal Speech; but he spoke well in a clear, full, natural voice, which does not require to be raised, but which, with the accustomed perversity of Address movers, is allowed to fall. The seconder of the Address is a very different man; he is in his 45th year, but his grey moustache and hair makes him look considerably older. This was Colonel Hogg, the eldest son of Sir James Weir Hogg, who was for many years chairman of the East India Company, whom Sir Charles Napier used to designate "that man Hogg." Well, whatever may be the father's faculties as a statesman, the son appears to have very little business conception, if one may judge from his recent speech. He was attired in colonel's uniform, which was very plain, beside the more gorgeous attirement of a deputy-lieutenant. He delivered himself of what may be termed mild prattle, in the tone of a comfortably provided clergyman who is giving his sermon to his congregation for the third or fourth time. He made ambitious attempts at language which for the most part were mixed metaphors, and, to use a contemporary's views, unmixed nonsense, so much so that reporters could not follow, and not the half of his speech was reported. The following is an instance:—He said, "The slightest rumour of war flashed from the telegraph makes the pulse of commerce quiver to its centre." A laugh followed this, but a smarter laugh was given when he said, "The announcement of the Abyssinian expedition made the whole world's pulse beat a hundred and twenty a minute." Now all this would do very well for after-dinner speeches, but they do not go down in the House of Commons. I dare say Colonel Hogg is a very good man in his way, but I think he will never succeed as an orator. He has been a very short time in the House, however, having been returned for Bath for the first time in 1865, and perhaps he may improve.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

For two days before the meeting of Parliament, rumours, which afterwards were acknowledged to be facts, were widely circulated that Mrs. Disraeli was in such a dangerous condition that her life was despaired of. Thus on the 19th it was not anticipated that the Leader of the House could attend. At half-past four, however, with solemn tread, he walked up the floor of the House, and took his seat on the Treasury Bench. All eyes were turned upon him, but no one cheered, lest it should fall upon a desolate heart. Some of his friends gently asked the right hon. gentleman concerning his wife's health; he simply shook his head, and replied "Very ill." A gentleman, high in office, told me that "she was as ill as she could be," and when this became known a sympathetic tone was exhibited by every one. Mr. Gladstone, in the happiest vein, gently touched upon the right hon. gentleman's domestic affliction, and exonerated the Government for the nonce from discussing business, and therefore promptly agreed to the Address. Never before did I see Mr. Disraeli betray emotion; but when he rose to answer his late opponent his voice broke—his sentences were scarcely intelligible when he alluded to the sympathetic feeling expressed by Mr. Gladstone, and responded to by the House. He was some minutes before he could get into a business argument. He did at last, however, conclude a short speech, and returned to the bedside of his wife. It was only afterwards we learned how critical her state was. She had caught cold when travelling in Scotland, congestion of the lungs set in, and the doctors had told the Chancellor of the Exchequer that if she survived that night there was hope. A sense of duty compelled him to visit the House, though he knew not what might occur in his absence. "She sleeps," said the doctor on his return; "a change for the better has taken place." All night the man who had the weight of a nation on his shoulders watched beside the bedside of his companion for life; and in the morning the crisis was over, and day by day Mrs. Disraeli has been progressing towards convalescence. How changed were the features of the statesmen when he came to the House on Friday! He chatted with his friends, told them of the trying ordeal he had gone through, and thanked God that such a change had taken place.

The Address was agreed to with less discussion than has taken place for many years, and the events which followed shall be recorded in my next.

OUR "CITY" ARTICLE.

THE markets for English and foreign securities are gradually improving. Indeed the latter department is for the present the great centre of business. Consols do not attract much attention, although they manifest further improvement. Foreign stocks, following Indian and colonial descriptions, have exhibited a marked rise. Low-priced classes have advanced, and there seems to be a fresh rage for Spanish, reminding those who remember it of the activity of the movement in the same security, but at much higher prices, more than 30 years ago. Other descriptions in this department will come into fashion, and particularly as railway shares are now so neglected as a medium of investment. Besides the purchase of foreign stocks does not require so large an amount of capital, and many of the sound descriptions pay good dividends while at comparatively cheap quotations. From the French Bourse the last prices exhibited a further recovery of ¼ per cent.

The demand for money at the Bank has been fair. In the open market there has been a little more inquiry, and rates were consequently well supported. The amount of capital offering was large, through the release of money from the companies in course of liquidation, and when calls are made the funds collected soon come into employment. The average quotations continue to be placed at 1½ to 1⅝, and the exceptional engagements are not lower than at 1½ per cent. The joint-stock banks make their advances at 1½ and 1¾ per cent.

In English securities the official business report for the week commencing 25th of November, was as follows:—Three per Cent. Consols, for money, 94⅜, ⅝; ditto, for account, 93⅞, ex div.; Three per Cents. Reduced, 92⅝, 8, 2⅜; New Three per Cents., 92⅛, ⅜, 8; Annuities, 1880, 9; Bank Stock, 244; India Five per Cent. Stock, 116, 15⅝, 16½; ditto Four per Cent., 100½; ditto Four per Cent. "enfaced" rupee paper, 88½, 8; ditto Five per Cent., 104½, 3⅝, 4; ditto Five-and-a-Half per Cent., 100½; ditto Five per Cent. Rupee Debentures, 1877, 103; ditto, 1882, 104½, ½. The India Four per Cent. stock was inquired for at 100 to 100¼. The Five per Cent. stock showed firmness. Exchequer Bills were quoted at 28s. to 31s. prem.

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